SPORTS / A23

Alonso retains F1 title
after Schumacher has tire trouble; Massa wins race

BUSINESS / B1

Better prospects
push up stocks to 9-year high

METRO / A17

Neonatal sepsis cases
common at Rizal Medical Center, says probe team

NEWS / A2

Gonzalez, Brion
at loggerheads over nurses' oath-taking

Datu seeks to preserve Moro identity on film

By Volt Contreras

A YOUNG DATU FROM MAGUINDANAO IS waging a different kind of battle on behalf of the Bangsamoro people. His weapon of choice: A movie camera.

On the sidelines of a conference sponsored by the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) last week in Quezon City,

DATU SEEKS/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, October 24, 2006 ★★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 318 P18 website: www.inq7.net

'Little officials' learn, teach good governance

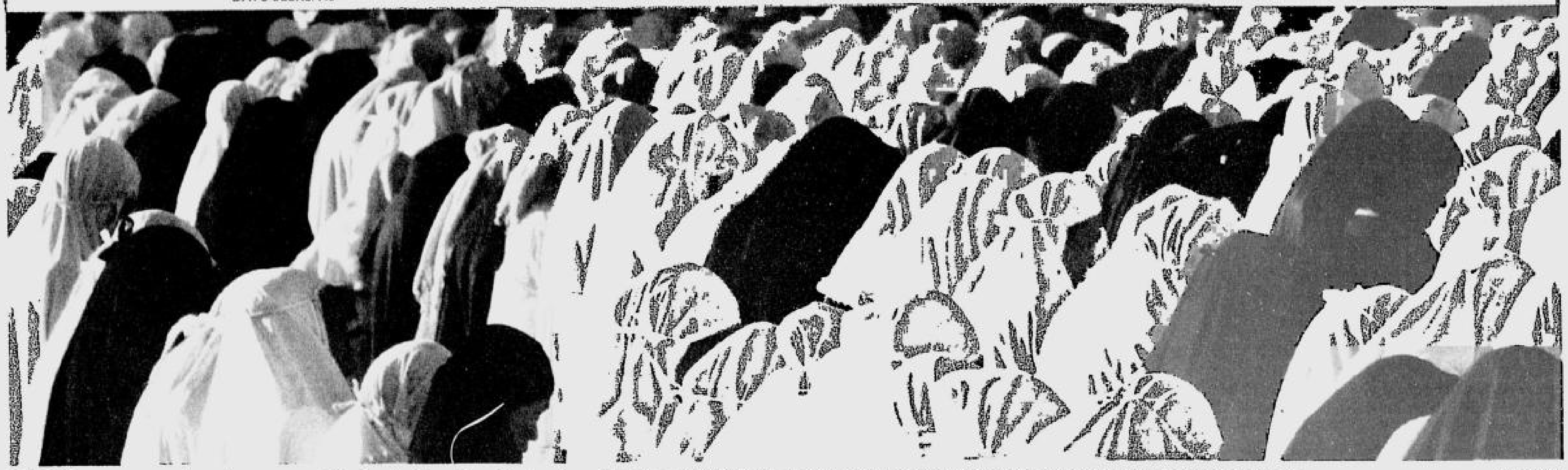
By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

YAN ANG GOOD GOVERNANCE WALANG POLITIKA!

THE "NEW CONGRESSman" of Marikina City is not interested in Charter change.

He has more pressing problems on his mind, like discouraging students

LITTLE/ A15



MUSLIM women attend morning prayers at the Luneta Grandstand during the celebration of Eid'l Fitr (Feast of Charity) marking the end of the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan.

REM ZAMORA

60% of Pinoys doubt SC fairness, says poll

SWS gauges trust on Cha-cha ruling

SIX OUT OF EVERY 10 FILIPINOS ARE "unsure" the Supreme Court will decide fairly on the petition for a people's initiative filed by Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), according to the third-quarter 2006 Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey.

The finding cuts across all areas and socioeconomic classes, the SWS said in a statement.

The opinion is most prevalent in Metro Manila (69 percent), followed by 64 percent in Mindanao, 61 percent in the rest of Luzon and 58 percent in the Visayas.

The sentiment is also shared by 60 percent of respondents in classes ABC, 62 percent in class D and 63 percent in class E.

The survey was conducted from Sept. 24 to Oct. 2 using face-to-face interviews with 1,200 statistically representative households. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Asked if they had "much trust, were unsure or had little trust that the Supreme Court would make a fair decision on whether to grant the petition of Sigaw ng Bayan and Ulap regarding the people's initiative," 62 percent of the respondents said they were unsure.

Twenty-four percent said they had "little trust" and 13 percent said they had "much trust" that the high tribunal would make a fair decision.

Sigaw ng Bayan and Ulap elevated to the Supreme Court their petition to amend the Constitution via a people's initiative, which entailed the collection of signatures of at least 3 percent of all registered voters in each district nationwide, after it was rejected by the Commission on Elections on Aug. 31.

Last week, Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban admitted that the tribunal— which is expected to decide on the petition by the end of the month—had

60% OF PINOYS/ A15

VISITING Thai Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont is welcomed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to Malacañang.

LYN RILLON

GMA honors new Thai premier

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THAILAND'S MILITARY-INSTALLED prime minister last night assured President Macapagal-Arroyo his government was working to restore democracy in a year's time, and she wished him success in his efforts.

Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont met with Ms Arroyo at Malacañang shortly after arriving in Manila on a lightning five-hour visit as part of his Southeast Asian tour.

In their meeting, Chulanont gave the President a bird's eye view of his plans to steer Thailand back to civilian rule.

The visit came toward the end of Surayud's regional tour, during which he had sought to reassure his counterparts of Thailand's return to normalcy following last month's putsch. *(See related story in The World, Page A20.)*

In her speech during the dinner, Ms Arroyo said: "Your Excellency, the community of nations, especially Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), wishes you all the best as you undertake the task of ad-

GMA HONORS/ A15

Muslims celebrate Eid'l Fitr, shun terror

By Nash B. Maulana
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—RELIGIOUS leaders of Islam yesterday declared terrorism "haram" (unlawful) during simultaneous congregational prayers marking the end of Ramadan in Muslim-dominated provinces and cities.

The congregational prayers were held in observance of Eid'l Fitr (Feast of Charity). To mark the occasion, President Macapagal-Arroyo declared today a national holiday in the largely Roman Catholic country.

Eid'l Fitr marks the end of the Muslim fasting month.

In a *khutba* (sermon) at a 6 a.m. congregation at City Hall here, Ustadz Abdulrauf Guialani, a member of the Assembly of Philippine Da'rul Ifta (Apdi or Houses of Opinion), declared senseless violence haram three times.

"Allah has made it haram to kill children; Allah has made it

MUSLIMS/ A8

GMA offers RP help to revive N. Korea talks

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo has told Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that the Philippine government, which is the current chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

GMA OFFERS/ A15

Microbes eating oil in Pandacan to the rescue

SCIENTISTS AND SCHOLARS, as well as engineers and environmentalists, will have to be adept both in operating robotic arms from submersibles and seeding oil-eating microbes to find a lasting solution to the oil spill from Guimaras. Luckily, they don't have to look far.

Experts from the Department of Science and Technology have found an indigenous source of oil-gobbling bacteria that can clean up Guimaras in a jiffy.

Unfortunately, the bacteria, found in great abundance in the oil rich *esteros*

MICROBES / A6

GUIMARAS OIL SPILL

Retrieval a complicated eng'g operation

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

AN OLD woman hired by Petron cleans up a limestone formation covered with bunker fuel oil along the shores of Nueva Valencia, Guimaras.

By Leila B. Salaverria

(Second of a series)

EXPERTS ARE FAST-TRACKING intricate engineering preparations for the dangerous task of removing the remaining bunker fuel oil from the sunken MT Solar I as international insurers and scientists decide on the most auspicious time to carry out the retrieval operations.

It will not be easy, say Philippine officials and environmentalists, who have been knocking their heads to see to it that the recovery effort, to be financed by the London-based International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC), will come off without a hitch.

I-TEAM *Report*
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

Just assembling the equipment will take weeks for the operation that will have to take place on a clear day, when the sea is calm.

The Solar I was carrying 2.1 million liters of oil for Petron Corp. from Bataan to Zamboanga del Sur when it went down on Aug. 11 in choppy waters off Guimaras, causing environmental damage to the island's rich marine life and resorts.

Siphoning the oil will re-

RETRIEVAL/ A6

Ex-bureau head gets jail term

By Norman Bordadora

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS convicted former Immigration Commissioner Zafiro Respicio for allowing the deportation of 11 Indians instead of holding them for trial in the Philippines on drug charges 12 years ago.

The 5th Division of the antigraft court found Respicio guilty of graft and falsification of public documents and sentenced him to a maximum of 12 years in prison and to pay a fine of P5,000.

Respicio, 58, is free on bail while he appeals the decision, the

EX-BUREAU/ A6

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/10/23/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Second FRONT PAGE

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NURSING OATH-TAKING

2 GMA men on collision course

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Jerome Aning

THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO RECOURSE BUT to administer the professional oath to the nursing graduates who passed the scandal-tainted June 2006 licensure exam once the Court of Appeals order to do so takes effect on Oct. 28.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said President Macapagal-Arroyo had made up her mind to obey the CA ruling allowing the oath-taking to proceed even if the Cabinet remained sharply divided on the issue.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion last week stopped the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) from administering the oath to the successful examinees pending the end of the investigation into the scandal.

"I'm only avoiding complications that may hinder the closure [of the issue]," Brion said in an interview yesterday.

The appellate court had ordered that all those who took and passed the nursing exam outside Metro Manila and Baguio City and those who had registered for but did not attend the "final coaching" sessions conducted by the three review centers suspected of leaking the test questions be allowed to take their oath as nurses.

Gonzalez said the President was just letting Brion have his way until the CA decision became final on Oct. 28 "out of respect" for the labor secretary. "*Pinagbibigyan lang* because in the end we have to implement it," Gonzalez said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

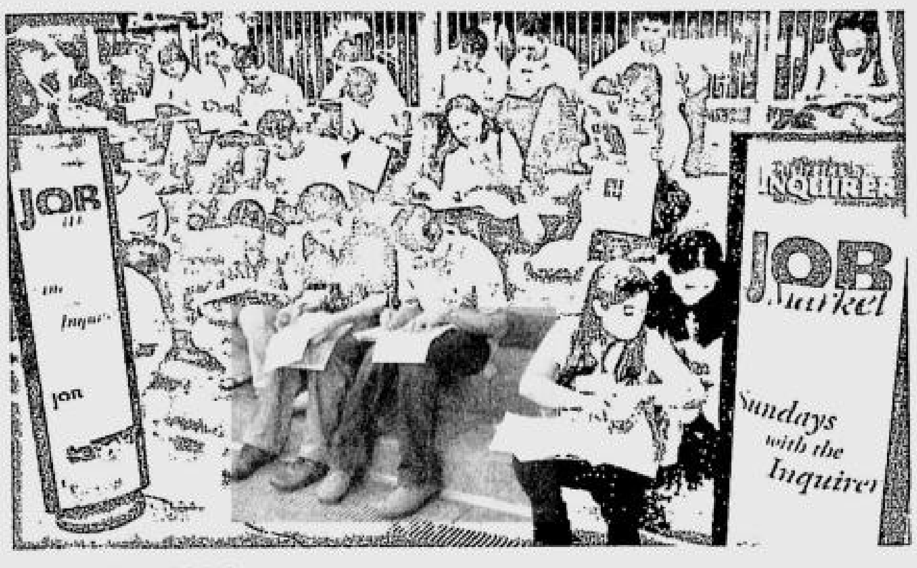
There was no point in delaying the oath-taking, he added, because the PRC could easily revoke the licenses of those who might be later found to have cheated.

Gonzalez said Brion's position was not to allow the oath-taking until all those who had benefited from the leak had been identified.

So far the CA has ordered 1,687 of the 17,821 graduates who passed the exam to retake Tests III (on medical-surgical nursing) and V (psychiatric nursing).

"His (Brion) position has always been extreme. He was always for a retake and we had clashed in the Cabinet over that. I said that the nurses were more the victims than the culprits and the real culprits were the nursing board examiners. My position is exactly what the CA did on all four counts," Gonzalez said.

Brion, for his part, said any moves on the issue would only complicate matters and serve as a stumbling block to the early resolution of the case.



OVERSEAS JOBS
Vice President Noli De Castro and Inquirer President Sandy Romualdez open the Overseas Employment Expo sponsored by Phillippine Daily Inquirer at the Mall of Asia in Pasay City on Monday. Above, some of the hundreds of applicants for foreign jobs fill up forms long before the official start of the fair. RUDY ESPERAS

Erap hits AFP over Marine officer's detention

By Norman Bordadora and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DEPOSED PRESIDENT JOSEPH Estrada yesterday criticized the Armed Forces of the Philippines for detaining 1st Lt. Artemio Raymundo for distributing copies of his documentary "Ang Mabuhay Para sa Masa" to his fellow Marines.

"I denounce in the strongest possible terms the ill treatment accorded to First Lieutenant Raymundo," Estrada said in a statement released by his lawyer Rufus Rodriguez.

Raymundo has reportedly been confined to barracks at the Philippine Marines compound in Taguig City since Sept. 26.

A staff officer in the Field Artillery Battalion under the Marine Combat Service and Support Brigade based in Fort Bonifacio, he was charged with insubordination and disrespect to a superior officer.

"(His offense) was not distributing the VCD, but disobeying his commanding officer when he was told to stop and talking back to the officer," said Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, AFP public information office chief.

Bacarro said there was no directive from the AFP leadership prohibiting soldiers from watching the Estrada video.

He, however, said Maj. Danilo Luna, Raymundo's commanding officer, was right in banning the video.

"(The video) has political color. It's the inherent job of a commander to insulate his men from partisan politics. If I were a commander, I would not let my people watch it," Bacarro said.

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Ma. Luisa Pales - 15th Place in 1992
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Ma. Esmeralda Tumbaga - 2nd Place in 1999
Franklin Barberan - 2nd Place in 2000
Arlene La Torre - 4th Place in 2002
Myla Pineda - 4th Place in 2002
Joyellen Yu - 12th Place in 2003

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Cainta Health Office
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Dr. Carlito P. Reyes Hospital
Dr. Fe Del Mundo Medical Center
Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital
East Avenue Medical Center
Estrella Home Care Clinic
Estrella Nex-Care Hospital
F.Y. Manalo Memorial Puericulture Maternity & Family Planning Center
Fort Bonifacio General Hospital
Gapan District Hospital
Gavino Alvarez Lying-In
Gonzales Medical & Children Hospital
Holy Life Multi-Specialty Clinic and Lying-In
Jaen Rural Health Unit
Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center
Las Piñas City Health Office
Las Piñas General Hospital and Satellite Trauma Center
Lipa Medix Medical Center
Lung Center of the Philippines
Makati Health Department
Mandaluyong City Medical Center
Mandaluyong City Health Department
Manila Health Department
Manila Naval Hospital
Marikina City Health Department
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Ospital ng Tondo
Pamana Medical Center
Pampanga Medical Specialist Hospital
Pasig City General Hospital
PCSO Charity Clinic
Philippine Children's Medical Center
Philippine International Hospital
Philippine Orthopedic Center
Quirino Memorial Medical Center
Rizal Provincial Hospital
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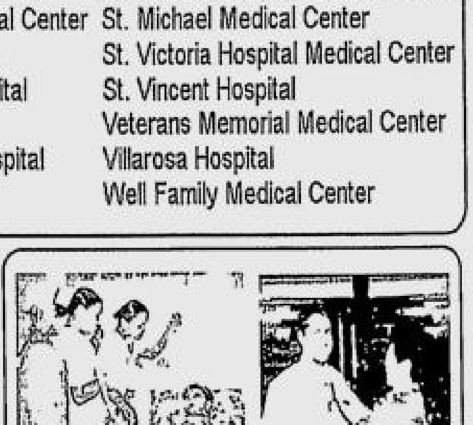


Abalos assures 2006 polls will take place

By Jerome Aning

NEXT YEAR'S ELECTIONS WILL push through despite the contention of a lawyer of President Macapagal-Arroyo that the Commission on Elections might not have enough time to implement the partial computerization of the polls as proposed by Congress.

"Definitely, there will be elections in 2007 and it will be partially automated," Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said yesterday, disputing lawyer Romulo Macalintal's assertion the May 2007 polls might have to be postponed because the Comelec was running out of time.

In the event of a delay or failure to automate the voting, the Comelec could revert to the manual process, Abalos told reporters.

Abalos admitted the process of acquiring new automated voting and counting machines could take a long time, but Congress had agreed to incorporate provisions in the proposed computerization law to hasten the procurement process.

Earlier, Abalos said the Comelec was "already sure" about implementing the electronic transmission and canvassing of votes because these could be done using simple technologies like scanners and mobile phones.

Macalintal, President Arroyo's election lawyer, raised the possibility that the 2007 elections might not be held because there was no more time for the Comelec to conduct an "honest-to-goodness" bidding for new automated machines.

The Comelec has 1,991 automated counting machines in storage that it cannot use because the P1.3-billion deal under which the machines were purchased was voided by the Supreme Court in 2004. Under the proposed automation bill pending in Congress it would have to buy new machines.

Abalos said the proposed bill did not stop the Comelec from conducting manual elections.

"It doesn't mean we could no longer hold elections if we fail to automate," he said.

The Comelec last week began preparing for partial automated voting in selected areas in anticipation of the computerization bill that Congress appeared poised to pass.

Gordon questions award of poll printing contract

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. RICHARD GORDON YESTERday questioned the award of a printing contract by the Commission on Elections to a company owned by two incorporators of Mega Pacific eSolutions Inc., the firm whose contract to supply automated counting machines (ACMs) to the Comelec was voided by the Supreme Court in 2004.

"On the surface, I don't see anything wrong with it because it's a separate corporation," Gordon said in a phone interview with Senate reporters from Geneva, where he is attending an International Red Cross governors conference.

"But again, if there's foolishness in the way it was conducted or the way they represented themselves, the corporate veil can be pierced anytime upon court order to see to it that the public interest is not thwarted by manipulation," he said.

Gordon was reacting to reports that a firm, Multi-Forms Corp., had won the bidding conducted by the Comelec for the printing of voters' registration forms and their corresponding identification cards on Sept. 4.

It turned out that Johnson Fong, Multi-Forms president, and his son, Bernard, were also owners and stockholders of Mega Pacific, whose contract to supply ACMs to the Comelec was voided by the high court for alleged anomalies in January 2004.

Gordon also urged the public to be wary of the assertion of President Macapagal-Arroyo's election lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, that the May 2007 elections might not push through, saying this was part of a scheme to condition the public's mind about the inevitability of Charter change. *(See related story on this page.)*

"His proposal is very ludicrous because there's an upcoming election. It appears they are hatching a conspiracy to postpone the elections to give more time for Chacha to prosper," he said.

Gloria rating rising in Ibon poll

By N. Bordadora

THE RESEARCH group criticized by the administration for consistently coming up with dismal satisfaction ratings for President Macapagal-Arroyo recorded this month a 13.8 percent improvement in the Chief Executive's net satisfactory rating—from negative 68.7 to negative 54.9.

The Ibon Foundation Inc.'s mid-year survey indicated that while many respondents still consider themselves poor, Filipinos are starting to feel "less hopeless."

On the President's men, however, none of them would likely make it to the senate, at least as of Oct. 2-12, 2006, when the survey was conducted.

Ibon said opposition stalwarts dominated the top 20 senatorial choices in their survey.

Antonio Tujan, Ibon research director, attributes the "slight improvement" in the President's net satisfaction rating to the "stabilization of the Philippine situation following the failure of the opposition to sustain the oust-Arroyo campaign and the dissipation of the threat of a financial crisis. The successive rollbacks in the prices of fuel are a factor," Tujan said.

In their October survey, 12.29 percent gave the president a satisfactory grade while 67.18 percent checked unsatisfactory. This gives Ms Arroyo a net satisfactory rating of negative 54.9 percent, an improvement of 13.8 percent from the negative 68.7 percent recorded in July.

Ibon's survey was conducted among 1,481 respondents chosen nationwide via multi-stage probability sampling.

No Filipino injured in Kazakhstan riots – DFA

FILIPINO WORKERS in Kazakhstan are safe following violent clashes between Kazakh and Turkish workers in an oil refinery, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday.

Forty people were reported killed and scores injured in the riots.

The Filipinos were not involved in the clashes.

An estimated 600 Filipino workers are employed in the Tengiz oil drilling project site mostly as electricians, pipe fitters and welders.

"They are in a separate and secure area," said Ed Malaya, acting DFA spokesperson.

The Kazakh government and the owners of the oil refinery have decided to relocate to the suburbs the Filipinos living in the area, Malaya added.

"We have been informed that the situation has stabilized. The Kazakhstan security forces have restored order," he said. *Nikko Dizon*

Sight of smog over Metro Manila leaves GMA aghast

By Christine O. Avendaño

EXPRESSING DISMAY OVER seeing smog rising not far from where she was playing golf, President Macapagal Arroyo yesterday called for more greening, cleaning and beautification of the country.

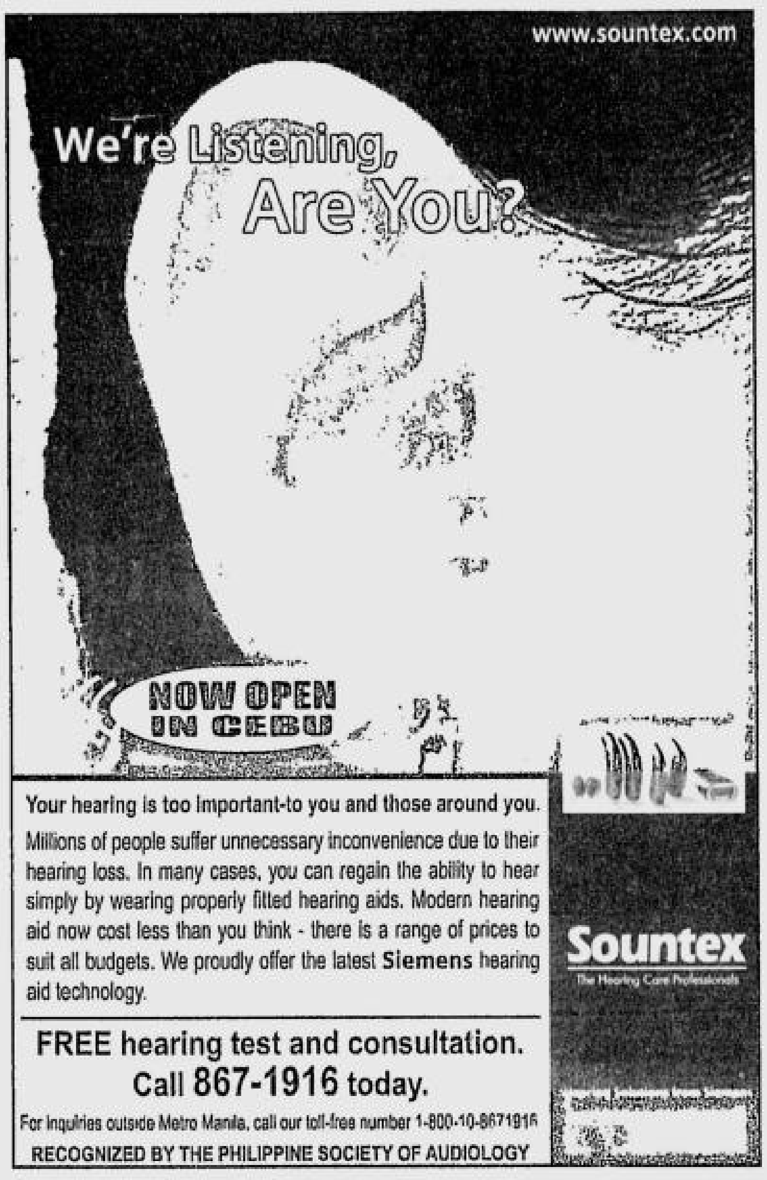
"Over the weekend, I played (golf) somewhere and looking over the fence, I saw a factory emitting smoke," Ms Arroyo told environmentalists attending an Eco-Labeling Workshop at the Dusit Hotel at Makati yesterday.

"Oh My God! I thought we had no more smog but we still have some of them," Ms Arroyo said.

In her talk before workshop participants and guests that included former First Lady Amelita Ramos, who chairs the Clean and Green Foundation, the President said she realized there was need to enforce more environmental laws, "especially now, after many trees across the country were toppled during Typhoon 'Milenyo' last month."

The President said her administration is bent on creating a "Green Philippines." The program encompasses conservation, energy independence, reforestation and designation of national parks and wildlife residences.

"We must take back our forests," she said. "We must replenish them with new protected forests to protect our land and our people."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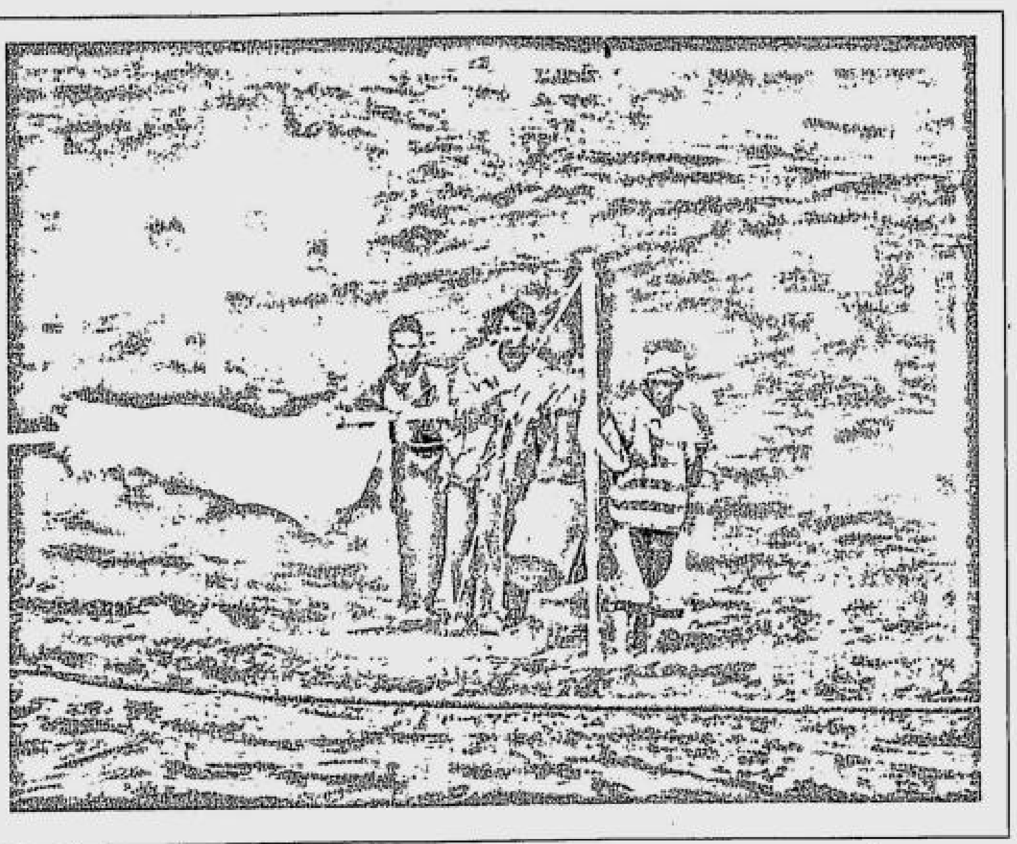

LOST AT SEA The US Navy released this photo of four Filipino fishermen standing on their submerged fishing vessel off the coast of Palawan on Oct. 19, 2006. They had been adrift at sea for three days without food and water before being rescued by the crew of the HSV Swift (HSV 2). An SH-60B helicopter launched from the ship noticed the submerged craft while conducting routine operations in the US Seventh Fleet area of responsibility. AP

Ban on Pinoy workers to Lebanon lifted soon

By Jerome Aning

THE GOVERNMENT MAY SOON LIFT THE ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Lebanon, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration chief Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz announced yesterday.

Baldoz said this could happen by end November, after the official adoption of the POEA governing board's reform package. The package provides, among others, the raising of minimum wages for domestics to $400, increasing the minimum age requirement from 21 to 25, and abolishing the payment of placement fees.

These reforms, contained in board resolution, is just awaiting the signature of one of the board members representing the recruitment industry, who is currently abroad. Baldoz said Labor Secretary Arturo Brion, concurrently board chair, would then sign the resolution for its implementation.

Baldoz, citing reports from the Bureau of Immigration, confirmed that illegally documented overseas Filipino workers have already been returning to Lebanon through backdoor "jump-off points" despite the deployment ban imposed by the Philippine government.

Undocumented OFWs, disguised as tourists, were reportedly flown to Bangkok, Thailand. From there, the recruits boarded planes to Syria, from where they were to cross the border into Lebanon.

The ban on deployment to Lebanon' was implemented following the eruption of violent clashes between the Israeli military and Hezbollah militants in southern Lebanon last July. A ceasefire brokered by the United Nations has been in effect since mid-August.

Education campaign

Baldoz yesterday hosted labor officials and recruitment industry leaders in the launching of a multi-media drive against illegal recruitment. POEA partnered with the Globe Telecom Inc. in the production of a series of television commercials, radio plugs, print ads, as well as posters and brochures, to warn prospective overseas workers against deception, exploitation and abuse by illegal recruiters.

Electronic billboards have been set up at the POEA central office in Mandaluyong City to display the latest job vacancies, and a list of agencies caught violating recruitment and deployment laws.

Baldoz said POEA will be tapping the Public Employment Services Offices of local governments for pre-employment orientation programs that will include telltale illegal recruitment practices, as well as market realities, updates and trades.

Complaints rising

According to POEA reports, Metro Manila, Cavite and the Ilocos region, particularly La Union province, have the highest incidents of illegal recruitment in the country.

No exact statistics for illegal recruitment currently exist because many cases are forwarded directly to the National Bureau of Investigation or the local police, Baldoz said.

The administrator, however, disclosed that among the complaints brought to POEA attention, there has been a 20-percent rise compared to last year's figures.

The agency handled 1,423 illegal recruitment complaints last year, 275 of which were actually filed before prosecutors' offices.

"Our priority is the preventive aspect but we also coordinate closely with law enforcers on surveillance, entrapment, filing and prosecution of cases," she said.

Sadly, she noted, the prosecutions "were not so successful" because the victims of illegal recruitment often withdrew their cases after their money was returned by the accused agencies, said Baldoz.

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, a Page A4 article—"For this priest, sex 'a good thing,' Church made it 'bad'"—misstated the past affiliation of the Missionaries for Jesus. The group is a breakaway faction from the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary—not Society of Jesus.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, October 24, 2006
29th Week in Ordinary Time
Anthony Mary Claret

1st Reading:	Eph 2:12-22
Gospel:	Luke 12:35-38

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be ready, dressed for service, and keep your lamps lit, like people waiting for their master to return from the wedding. As soon as he comes and knocks, they will open to him. Happy are those servants whom the master finds wide-awake when he comes. Truly, I tell you, he will put on an apron and have them sit at table and he will wait on them. Happy are those servants if he finds them awake when he comes at midnight or daybreak!"

Commentary

We were so far from God, now we are brought so close in Jesus' life/death/resurrection and we share in that in our baptisms/eucharist. Jesus is our peace with God and one another; we are all one in the Body of Christ, reconciled, so close in God: we are saints, being built into a sanctuary together where God lives. Do we realize we are to be light burning, waiting, as servants intent on obedience and answering our Master's needs? If we are true to our baptisms, then Jesus will wait upon us! If only God finds us 'at the ready' today and everyday!

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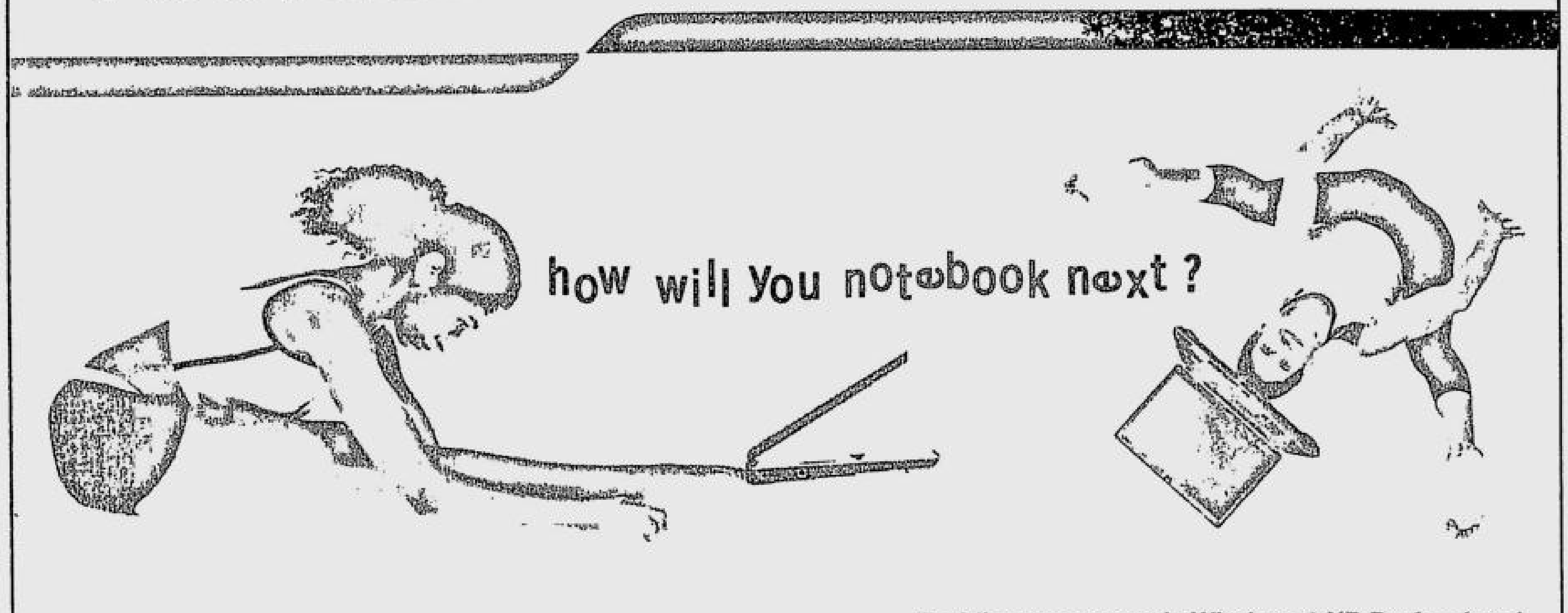
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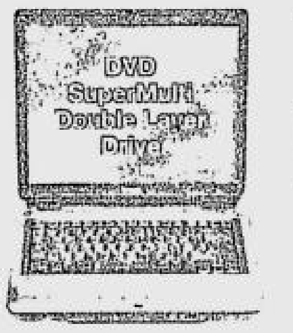

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SENATE INQUIRY SOUGHT

Senator scores monopoly in textbook contracts

By TJ Burgonio

EVEN AFTER IT HAD COME UNDER FIRE for publishing an error-ridden history text, Vibal Publishing House Inc. and its affiliates continue to corner the bulk of the contracts to supply textbooks to the public schools from the Department of Education.

"Despite their erroneous textbooks, Vibal and its sister companies, the Vibal Group, continued to bag multimillion-peso textbook procurement deals," opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said in a statement yesterday.

Just last September, he said, Vibal and a foreign partner, Watana Phanit Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., were awarded a P500-million contract to supply textbooks despite having been disqualified for alleged conflict of interest.

Lacson early this month filed a resolution seeking an inquiry into the new contract and Vibal's alleged monopoly of the DepEd's supply deals.

Lacson said that if Vibal's monopoly was not "addressed," it stood to corner some P1.5-billion worth of contracts out of the P2.064-billion DepEd allocation for textbooks in its P134.7-billion proposed budget for 2007.

"If we don't correct this practice, the educational system will suffer as a consequence," he told education officials during the Senate hearing on the DepEd's budget last week, pointing out that a monopoly of the supply contracts would result in inferior textbooks.

Vibal refused to comment on the matter.

In September 2004, Marian School supervisor Antonio Calipjo Go found numerous factual and grammatical errors in the history textbook for second-year high school students titled "Asya: Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap."

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Microbes eating oil ...

From page A1

of the oil depots in Pandacan, Manila, will have to give up their lives in the process of cleaning up the oil.

But scientists are not worried over the microbes' supreme sacrifice. The microbes can multiply as quickly as they gobble up the oil—at the prodigious rate of doubling their population every 20 minutes. This translates to a reproductive rate of 7,200 times a day, according to DOST scientists.

The bacteria, scientifically known as *Pseudomonas aeroginosa*, is one of four indigenous oleophiliac (oil-eating) microbes that can be inoculated into oil spills to wipe them out in no time at all, says engineer Romeo N. Cabacang, chief of the Microbiology and Genetics Division-Industrial Technology Development Institute of the DOST.

Cabacang says the microbe, which thrives in the oil-rich esteros of Pandacan, is not only a voracious oil-eater but also a prodigious reproducer.

Rice hulls as slick sponge

Professors Ernesto Lozada, Eduardo Paningbatan and Virginia Cuevas of the University of the Philippines in Los Baños are proposing the use of rice hull to soak up the oil spill.

"Found on the surface of rice hull are thousands of glass-like spikes that create a micro-structure where oil is attracted to firmly attach, both at the droplet and molecular levels," they say in a paper.

The hull is hard and does not readily absorb water due to its tightly bound cellulosic and fibrous tissues and high silica content.

It also can float long enough to be retrieved with the slick, they say.

The proposals could not have come at a more propitious time. Over the weekend, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr., chair of Task Force Guimaras, announced that the first phase of the cleanup operation had been completed by Petron Corp.

Cruz said 130 kilometers of Guimaras shoreline affected by the oil spill had been cleared of sludge.

Debris to Mindanao factory

Two barges and a ship left Guimaras over the weekend with 2,050 metric tons of oil-soaked debris to be delivered to a factory in Mindanao, which will use the waste as fuel and raw material for cement production, officials said. Last month, two barges delivered over 1,500 MT of debris.

The shipment brings to 3,600 tons the amount of sludge gathered off the coast and beaches of the island province, which has been struck hard by the oil spill triggered by the Aug. 11 sinking of the MT Solar I. The tanker was transporting 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel owned by Petron from Bataan to Zamboanga del Sur.

Felimon Antiporda, Petron vice president for supply and operations, said the barges Ras and Martam and the light cargo tanker Harmony Diannes left Guimaras on Friday and Saturday on a two- to three-day voyage to the wharf of cement manufacturer Holcim Philippines Inc. in Lugait, Misamis Oriental.

Cruz added that the next phase would involve the environmental rehabilitation plan being worked on by a group of scientists, environmentalists and academics to restore the mangroves, sea grass and coral reefs to their natural state. A round-table conference to finalize the plan is scheduled for late November.

Biosafety panel

The task force has created a biosafety subcommittee headed by regional executive director Julian D. Amador of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Amador has pushed for the use of indigenous materials to fight oil spills.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) calls the use of natural processes to clean up harmful chemicals in the environment bioremediation.

"Microscopic bugs or microbes that live in soil and groundwater like to eat certain harmful chemicals, such as those found in gasoline and oil spills," said the US-EPA in its "Citizens' Guide to Bioremediation."

"When the microbes have completely digested these chemicals, they change them into water and harmless gases like carbon dioxide," it said.

A WORKER loads bags of oil debris onto a barge bound for a cement factory in Mindanao.

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Retrieval a complicated eng'g operation

From page A1

quire vessels with dynamic positioning (DP) systems that will allow them to remain fixed in an area above the Solar I by using their propellers and thrusters. Mooring or anchoring is not feasible in the sea 630 meters deep, where the crippled tanker sits on the floor.

More than 1,000 ships are equipped with the DP system. They are used in the offshore oil industry in places like the North Sea, the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Mexico.

From the DP vessel, equipment will be dropped to where the Solar I nestles upright. Using essentially tubes and pumps, the oil will then be sucked out to the DP vessel and then transferred to a tanker.

There will be eight separate siphoning processes, says Rafael Coscolluela, ground chief of Task Force Guimaras that was formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to respond to the oil spill regarded as the worst the country has ever experienced.

2 of 10 containers spilled

Materials gathered by a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) sent to conduct an investigation last month of the condition of the Solar I indicated that two of the 10 containers inside the tanker had spilled their contents, but the eight others appeared to be intact.

The ROV was directed by experts aboard the Shinsei Maru, a Japanese research ship commissioned by Petron to conduct the probe so it would be guided on the remedial steps needed to be taken next.

The retrieval operation could take a month, says Coscoluela, although once the equipment is in place, it could recover 240,000 liters of oil per day.

"What takes time is the actual installation of the suction equipment, the drill," he says.

"First, you need to attach something waterproofed to the hull, drill so that the oil comes out. I understand you even have to heat the oil to make it more viscous to allow it to be pumped up faster," Coscolluela says.

Coast Guard to assist

"This is a complicated engineering operation which requires the mobilization of vessels, equipment and personnel with the experience," he says.

"Mobilization alone, according to the IOPC people, will take about four to six weeks. So in the meantime that we're waiting for the final decision on who will do the siphoning, when, etc., some engineering planning is going on," Coscolluela says.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is assisting in the retrieval, says Vice Adm. Arthur Gosingan who is preparing for a worst-case scenario, meaning the possibility of a second oil spill from the sunken vessel.

The Coast Guard vice commander says he will not hesitate to stop the operation when sea conditions make it too risky.

"Once the off-loading operation starts, the role of the Coast Guard is to see to it that no oil will spill," says Gosingan.

He says the Coast Guard will deploy its own oil spill booms and skimmers and have dispersants on standby.

Booms and skimmers

The booms confine the oil spill to a specific area and prevent it from reaching the shoreline. Skimmers collect the black globs by separating them from the water. Chemical dispersants are sprayed on oil slicks to break them down into droplets, hasten their degradation and prevent them from reaching the coast.

"We have to see to it that we have enough vessels to act in case of an accident because while the oil is being siphoned, it can leak. We have the ocean boom, about 750 meters," he says. This will be held by two vessels, called buoy tenders, which will be dispatched from Manila.

Once any spill is contained, the Coast Guard will use the skimmer to recover the oil.

Gosingan expects the oil in the tanker to be thick, which means the skimmer can pick it up. If any oil sheen remains that the skimmer cannot recover, the Coast Guard will use dispersants.

But Gosingan also says the private company conducting the off-loading of oil is required to have in place its own measures, like oil spill booms, to prevent oil from leaking, and if these fail, to contain and stop any leaked oil from spreading.

Second safety net

The Coast Guard equipment will, in effect, function as a second layer of safety precautions in case the recovery measures of the contractor fail to work, he added.

"Even in the regular transfer of fuel, we require companies to have an oil spill boom surround the vessel. So we have all the more reason to require it in this case because this is offloading from a sunken vessel," he says.

But even before the private company begins its work, Gosingan says the Coast Guard will have to examine its plans, safety regulations and equipment.

He points out that when the ROV vessel conducted its survey of the tanker, the PCG had to check the details of the operation to ensure they would not do anything that could lead to environmental damage.

"It's hard not to be careful. We have to see what they would do," he says.

Ex-bureau head gets jail term

From page A1

French news agency AFP said.

Finding no conspiracy, the division acquitted Respicio's coaccused—Associate Commissioners Bayani Subido and Manuel Rojas. The case against the late National Bureau of Investigation Deputy Director Arturo Figueras was dismissed after he died while the case was still pending.

The 67-page decision promulgated on Oct. 13 and penned by Associate Justice Teresita Baldos said the Indians "derived unwarranted benefit" from the issuance of a deportation order that prevented their prosecution in court.

The 11 Indians were identified as Pramod Shiriad Jogdeo, Shaik Easaf, Sunkavalivenkata Lakshimanaraya, Augustine Rajesh, Nagayya Vanam, Mohammad Rafique, Jausar Ali, Nabi Pashakan Gulam, Mengesh Bendu Jadhav, Laxman Kushaba Kadam and Cajetan Merwyn Mlvares.

Court records showed that they were arrested by NBI agents in a raid on a drug laboratory in Las Piñas City on July 4, 1994. They were subsequently charged with violation of the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972. Under the law, manufacturing drugs is a nonbailable heinous crime punishable by death.

A month later, the Indians filed individual requests for deportation with the Bureau of Immigration.

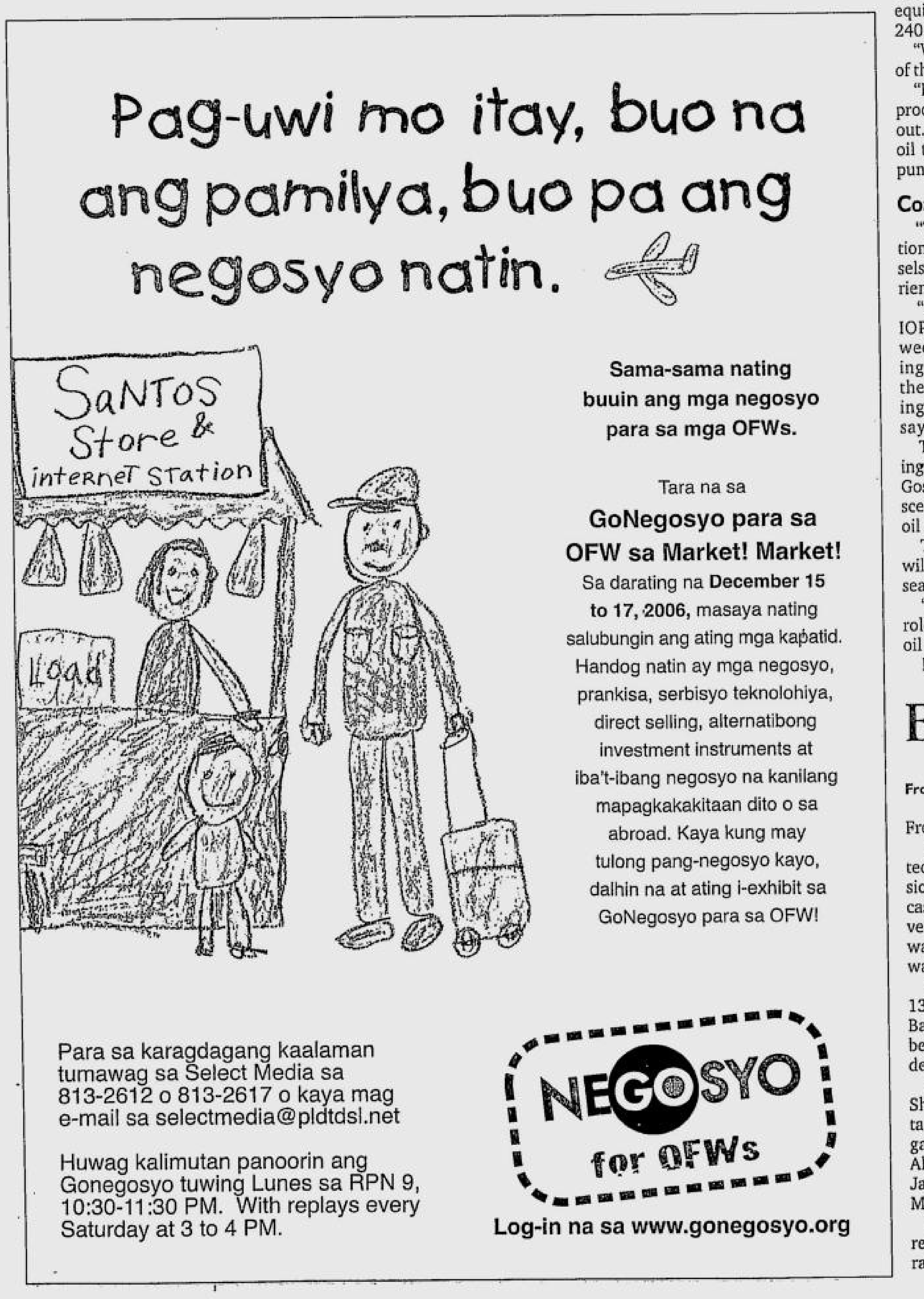
Records showed Respicio and his associate commissioners approved the deportation despite an ongoing preliminary investigation against the Indians.

While Subido and Rojas signed the "Self-Deportation Order," the court found that the associate commissioners were not informed by Respicio about the investigation.

The case of what was then called the "11 Little Indians" sparked widespread criticism of the BI and the NBI in the mid-1990s.

"This decision should serve as a warning to government officials against the commission of graft as the long arm of the law will eventually catch up with them even after their separation from the service," said Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio.

The Ombudsman prosecuted the case.



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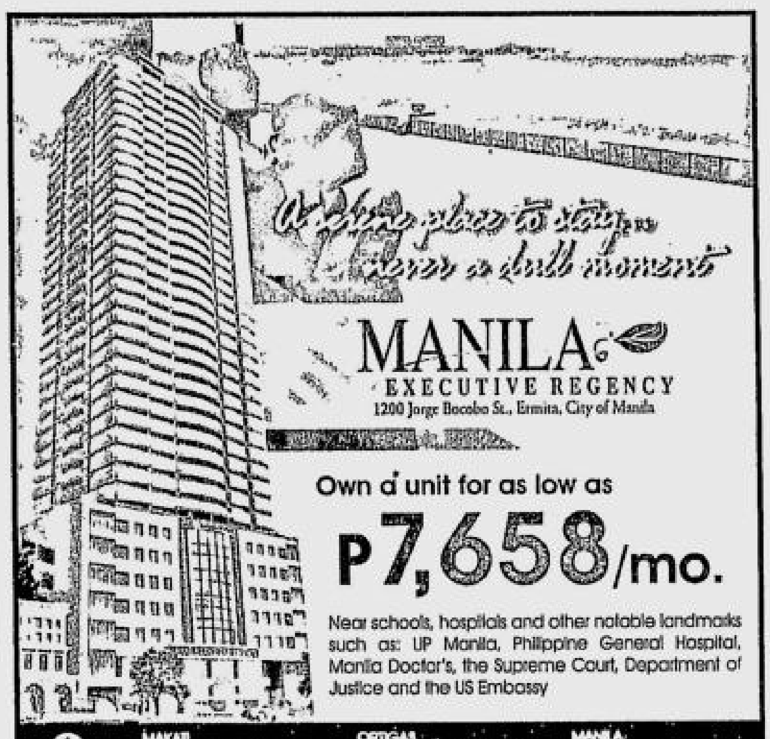

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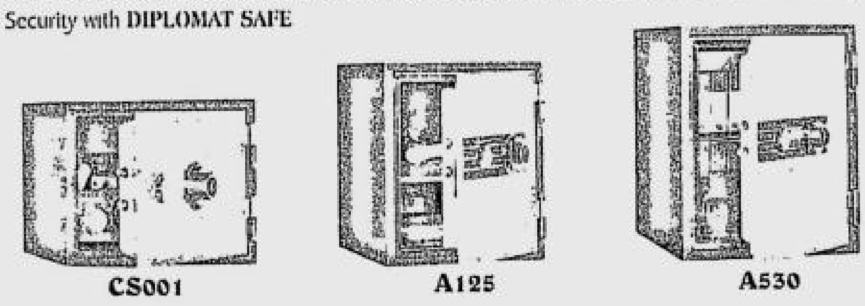

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IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST GRACIOUS, THE MOST MERCIFUL

"O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other (not that you may despise each other). Verily, the most honoured of you in the sight of God is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And God has full knowledge and is well-acquainted (with all things).--- Al Quran, Al Hujurat 13:49

Eid Mubarak Eid'l Fitre

Happy Hari Raya Eid'l Fitre to all our Muslim friends and their families!

Everyone is invited to join the Eid'l Fitre celebration at the 1st International Ramadhan Fair. Clamshell 1, Intramuros, Manila. 21-26 October 2006, 10 AM to 10 PM. For more information, please visit http://ramadhanfair.bangsamoro.com. A project of the Young Moro Professionals Network Inc. (YMPN)

Pagtabangan BaSulTa

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Datu seeks to preserve Moro identity on film

From page A1

award-winning filmmaker Gutierrez "Teng" Mangansakan II told the INQUIRER of his quest to preserve what he holds to be the Bangsamoro identity.

According to Mangansakan, the Bangsamoro culture is threatened not only by what he considers media's distorted views about Muslims, but also by what he sees as the pernicious influence of Middle Eastern customs.

The 30-year-old datu noted, for instance, the growing number of Filipino Muslim women wearing the *niqab*, a black garment of Middle Eastern origin that completely covers the body but leaves only a small opening for the eyes.

"It is only proper for Muslim women to cover their bodies to remain chaste," the communication arts major from Ateneo de Davao recalled a cousin, the holder of a master's degree in Islamic studies, telling him.

"But chastity had never been an issue with my female cousins who are comfortable wearing traditional Maguindanaon *tendung* (head scarf), *bangala* (blouse) and *malong* (wraparound). Why should it be now?" Mangansakan said.

He lamented that some rituals and festivals that had survived for centuries among Moros—who "historically have practiced a moderate form of Islam"—had all but faded as these were now considered "adulterations" of the Muslim faith.

During his childhood, Mangansakan recounted, important celebrations were never complete without the *dhikr*, the chanting of verses that began with evening prayers and lasted till the wee hours of the morning; the song duet *dayunday*, a popular form of entertainment on the eve of a wedding, or the elaborate post-funeral rites of the *kanduli*.

"Some continue to perform these traditions but only in a clandestine manner," he said.

Internal struggle

During the NCCA forum on indigenous cultures, Mangansakan told the participants that "within Muslim communities, there is an internal struggle between (my) culture and Islamic fundamentalism."

In the interview with the INQUIRER, he spoke of a "new religious clique" in Mindanao—Muslim scholars who, upon returning from their studies in the Middle East, "preached and applied the brand of Islam they learned abroad."

These scholars, according to Mangansakan, were "educated during a period of heightened Islamic militancy" and emerged along with the Moro separatist movement.

"This clique fails to acknowledge that our indigenous traditions are unique to Southeast Asian Muslim culture. If we are to argue that the Moro people's right to self-determination draws its legitimacy from the existence of our own national identity, cultural traditions are part of that identity which sets us apart from the rest of the Filipino people," he said.

"There must be balance ... We can accept these new ways and be good Muslims but still retain our Malay heritage."

Through his camera lens, Mangansakan has sought to capture on film what he believes to be the Bangsamoro identity.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines cited Mangansakan's work, "House Under the Crescent Moon," as the best documentary film in the 2001 Gawad CCP awards.

The filmmaker, who keeps a day-job as a freelance writer when not shooting or doing cultural research, has since been a frequent resource person at CCP workshops.

In 2003, he earned an NCCA grant to do his next project, "Boat in Deep Waters." His third work, "Arrows in the Wind," is currently on the festival circuit.

'Defender of Heritage'

The 2005 Fookien Times Philippines Yearbook counted Mangansakan as one of the country's "Defenders of Heritage." He was the second-youngest on a list of 70 honorees who included F. Sionil Jose, Bien Lumbera, Kidlat Tahimik, Rio Alma and Ramon Obusan.

All of his three documentaries are set against the separatist war in Mindanao.

"Crescent Moon" depicts scenes in the ancestral home of Mangansakan's maternal grandfather, Datu Udtog Matalam, when it served as an evacuation center during the Estrada administration's all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"Boat in Deep Waters" is about the history of Moro women "from the point of view of my 100-year-old grandmother."

MANGANSAKAN: Datu filmmaker. EDWIN BACASMAS

"Arrows in the Wind" captures the efforts of a Moro community to rebuild its village after days of bombing destroyed its school house.

Mangansakan's work in progress is about his late uncle, MILF founding chair Salamat Hashim. The documentary was inspired by Mangansakan's one-on-one talk with the MILF leader after the fall of the rebel stronghold Camp Abubakar.

Blood of warriors

The blood of warriors runs in Mangansakan's veins. Datu Udtog, whose house provided the setting for "Crescent Moon," founded the Muslim Independence Movement in 1968, the "precursor" of today's Moro liberation movements.

Udtog and Mangansakan's paternal grandfather, Datu Bitol, both served in the guerrilla force called the "Bolo Battalion" during World War II.

Utdog became governor of Cotabato before the province was divided into five local governments in the 1960s. The filmmaker's father, Gutierrez Mangansakan I, served as an education undersecretary during the Ramos administration.

But unlike his elders who joined the armed struggle, the younger Mangansakan sees himself fighting on a different front.

"Indeed, to be an artist is to live at a time of war. In my journey, I have come to realize that we (Moros) are waging a war on all fronts. There is the armed conflict, which is, perhaps, the extreme sacrifice we have to pay to attain our freedom. On the other hand, a battle is being carried out on the peace negotiating table," he told a filmmakers' forum in the United States.

"And there is a battle being fought on the cultural front. I consider the last battle as my own."

Manila fair showcases beauty of Islam culture

By Tina G. Santos

ORGANIZERS CALL IT THE FIRST of its kind—a fair intended to bring together Muslims and non-Muslims to showcase the beauty of Islam's culture.

Organized by a group of young Muslims, the 1st International Ramadan Fair at Clamshell 2 in Intramuros, Manila, features works by Moro artists, films, book exhibitions, interreligious dialogue, seminars and Koran readings and prayers.

Visitors are also treated to Muslim cultural presentations while enjoying the many tastes of halal foods (food slaughtered or prepared in the manner prescribed by Islamic law).

Although the country has been observing the Muslim holiday Eid'l Fitr for the past few years now, many Filipinos, especially non-Muslims, still cannot relate to the significance of the event, according to Ara Belleng, secretary general of the Young Moro Professionals Network Inc.

Virtue of patience

Eid'l Fitr, or the Feast of Charity, marks the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has declared today a holiday throughout the country in observance of Eid'l Fitr.

"Very few non-Muslims know what the celebration is all about. They're not aware of the important lessons, such as acquiring the virtue of patience, that the event (represents)," Belleng said.

She stressed that the event was aimed at highlighting strong Islamic principles and the values of the Muslim community.

"It also aims to provide a venue for the appreciation and understanding of Islamic civilization, history, communities and contemporary issues and practices," she added.

Through the fair, event organizers and participants hope to enhance the perspective of Muslims and non-Muslims alike on the tenets of Islam.

"We are very excited to present the Ramadan in a way that people can easily understand. This is the first time that Ramadan is being be presented in an atmosphere that invites questions and encourages everyone, Muslims or non-Muslims, to (share) in the experience," Belleng said.

The fair runs until Thursday.

MUSLIM women gather at the Luneta Grandstand in Manila for prayers and

Muslims celebrate E

From page A1

haram to kill women; Allah has made it haram to kill elderly people," Guialani said.

A similar teaching was delivered in open field prayers elsewhere in the country, particularly in the areas of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Ustadz Esmael Ebrahim, a senior member of the Apdi, told the INQUIRER.

This year marked the first time in many years that political and religious leaders had unanimously agreed on a common date to celebrate Eid'l Fitr.

ARMM Gov. Zaldy Uy Ampatuan and his father, Maguindanao Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan, were the first to declare Monday a day of Eid'l Fitr prayers.

The regional governor made the declaration through a religious deputy, Ustadz Mohamad Farid Adas, the ARMM madaris education undersecretary.

Hours later, Ustadz Omar Pasiga Maguindanao's 75-year-old gra mufti, spoke over the radio, conc ring with the governors' edict.

Governors Wahab Akbar and Ab lais Manalao made similar decla tions in Basilan and Lanao del Sur.

Cotabato City Mayor Muslim Sema said Ramadan officially end at 5:25 p.m. Sunday based on lu observations by Muslim schol from Lanao del Sur.

Ramadan begins with the mo sighting on the ninth lunar month the Arabic Hijra calendar and e with the appearance of the cresc moon on the tenth month.

Adas invoked the Islamic conc of government officials as being "imam (leader) of the people" clot with authority to declare what is to followed in matters pertaining to s ular and religious affairs.

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to celebrate Eid'l Fitr. REM ZAMORA

id'l Fitr, shun terror

The Apdi also issued a statement condemning the renewed violence that had prompted a heightened terror alert level following recent bombing incidents in Mindanao.

Sermons were also delivered by Ustadz Abdulwahid Inju in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi; Mufti Julasiri Abirin in Sulu; Adas and Ustadz Kamarudin Baulo in Maguindanao; Mufti Mahmood Pulangi in Lanao Sur, and Ebrahim and Guialani in this city.

In a public statement, Adas said terror was among the "worst forms of evil."

He said he had twice witnessed what tragedies terrorism could cause, on June 23 in Shariff Aguak and on Dec. 24, 2002, in Datu Piang, both in Maguindanao.

In the first incident, seven people were killed while in the second, 14 died, including Mayor Saudi Uy Ampatuan, the brother of the regional governor.

The late mayor's son and namesake, now himself the mayor of a town named after his father, said it was unfortunate that people had the misimpression that Muslims generally were "not the targets of, or were spared (from) terror attacks."

"But look at what's happening in Iraq. Many of the victims of terrorism are Muslims," said Mayor Saudi Ampatuan Jr.

In their common sermons, the muftis said the Muslims' finest role in a collective jihad (struggle) was that of maintaining "good relationships among humanity and with other creations of God," according to a transcript of the sermons obtained by the INQUIRER.

Agreeing on unified sermons among Muslim scholars was aimed at avoiding unconventional interpretations of the Koran, according to the muftis. *With reports from Charlie C. Señase and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

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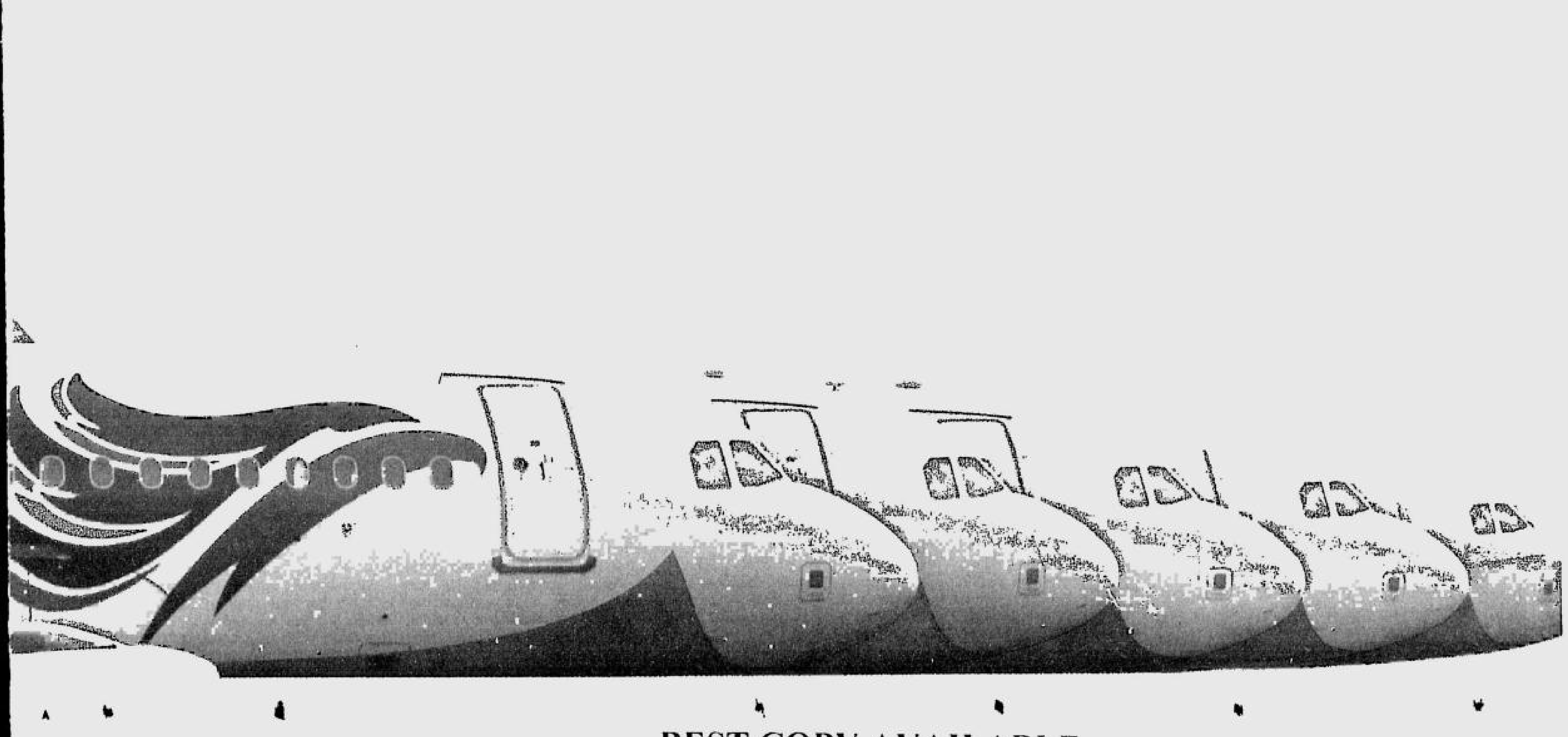

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Time for decision

EDITORIAL

THIS WEEK THE SUPREME COURT WILL MAKE one of its most momentous decisions in the 60 years since the country regained its independence. It will rule on the people's initiative case that will decide whether there would be a change from the presidential to the parliamentary system of government.

Understandably, there is pressure from both sides: from groups for and against revising the Constitution through a signature campaign or people's initiative. Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban triggered a round of public debate when he disclosed that the Court had received "some pressure," although he said it would not affect the independence of the high court.

Later, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez joined in with his two cents' worth of advice, and urged the Chief Justice to avoid socials where politicians are present and to be wary of nosy reporters. Strange advice, this, coming from a government official who has often given his comment on almost any topic under the sun, including on those subjects where prudence would have dictated that he should keep quiet if he could not say anything that would advance his country's and countrymen's interest.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said that the country's future depends on how the people's initiative case is resolved. President Macapagal-Arroyo also fired a parting shot, saying at the gathering of chief justices that "a change in [Philippine] politics must be accompanied by a change in our system of government."

Now that almost everybody has had his or her say, we hope that this week the interested people and groups would keep quiet and allow the Supreme Court to deliberate on the case in peace. The members of the Court are used to receiving pressure, but still, constant badgering can be irritating and disconcerting.

There has been a suggestion that the five most senior justices of the Court recuse themselves from the case. Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, who made the suggestion, said that by recusing themselves, the justices would be spared the awkward situation where the appointment of the new Chief Justice would be perceived as a reward for taking a stand in favor of the President.

We do not think there is need for this. It is presumed that the senior justices are all persons of strong character and integrity who can resist all kinds of pressures and temptations to rule in a case one way or the other.

We do not believe, either, that the mere fact that 10 of the justices are appointees of the President will affect the way they will rule on the case. Their recent record suggests that they are independent-minded, and will not be pressured to favor one group or the other. They all voted against Malacañang on Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, which placed the country under a state of national emergency; Executive Order No. 464, which barred officials from testifying in Congress without the President's approval; and the calibrated preemptive response policy which prohibited rallies without permits.

Having five (the senior justices) or 10 justices (the President's appointees) recuse themselves could affect the outcome of the voting on a case that has great implications for the future of the country. And having only five or 10 justices voting in a case of such great importance would not look good. We say, let all of the justice participate in the deliberations and the voting. The nation could benefit from their judicial wisdom and statesmanship.

The resolution of this case is the last chance to amend the Constitution and bring about a change in the system of government this year or in the near future. The option of convening Congress as a constituent assembly is already out because the Senate would certainly not want to be legislated out of existence. At this point, it is too late to call a constitutional convention. Besides, it would be expensive and it would take a long time to amend the Constitution.

Now that the smoke of the verbal battle over people's initiative is dissipating, we hope that the justices of the Supreme Court will see their way clear to making a decision that will benefit not just certain persons or groups but the nation.

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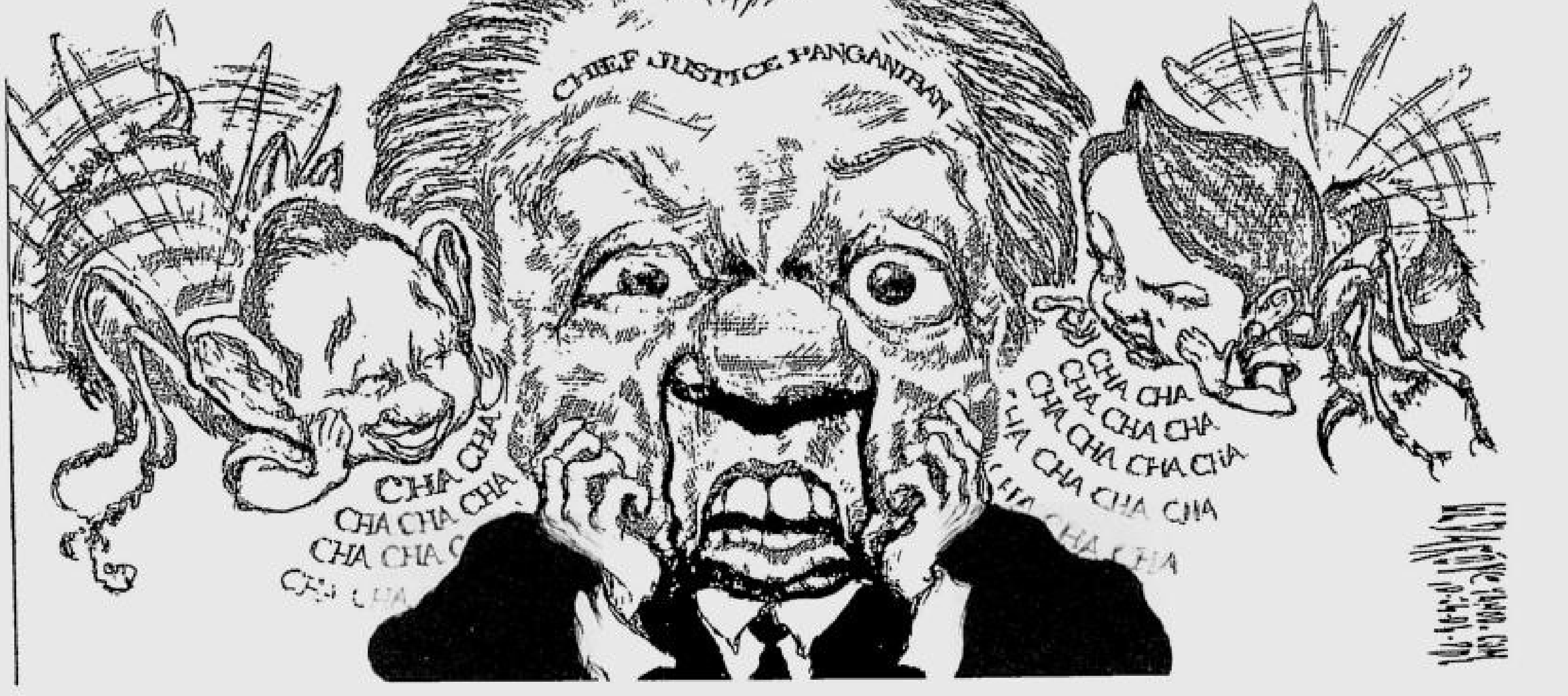

Invisible price tags

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO GLORIA, NOLI, Manuel, Joe de V, Erap, Fidel and assorted leaders, may I say: Your tawdry jockeying for political edge sells our grandchildren short. Accounts of your raw ambition hog both the front pages and prime-time broadcasts. They blot out the gut issues that will determine whether our grandchildren will inherit, from us, a livable country.

The little-noticed collapse of soil is one such issue. It takes nature 100 years to form a centimeter of topsoil, scientists tell us. That thin layer produces our food. Yet, an hour's downpour on denuded land will flush this resource into the sea. In Mindanao, 297.9 million metric tons of topsoil are swept away yearly, notes Edmundo Prantilla of the Mindanao Center for Policy Studies.

Politicians set precise price tags for their pork barrel. Can they do that for a loss which spans generations? Muddy stains today discolor the seas surrounding the mouths of major rivers. These are saline graveyards for irreplaceable topsoil that we borrowed from our grandchildren.

Stump-studded land provide stark images of deforestation in a country that whittled down its forests from 18.9 million hectares in 1920 to a fraction less than 5 million today.

But the more lethal threat is land degradation. The first hard-to-detect symptoms appear in heavily logged-over areas. Plants fail to regenerate. Tree-crown covers fall. The volume of valuable commercial species thin out. Wildlife and other plant life rapidly disappear as soil collapses. "Reversing soil erosion makes fighting insurgency seem like child's play," the late National Scientist Dioscoro Umali wrote.

United Nations foresters warn that degradation damage piles up unnoticed. This delays corrective measures, resulting in further deterioration. Yet, when tallied, loss can exceed by 10 times the bill from deforestation.

Have our leaders bothered to figure out this invisible price tag?

That would help us sense the hidden patterns of change. "All too often, we register the dramatic flareups," editor Theo Sommers noted. "Yet, the geological changes underfoot often escape our notice. We revel in linear extrapolations of existing trends. But we are inclined to forget that every trend begets its own counter-trend, every vision its revision."

This "hidden pattern" runs through our Ifugao rice terraces, which Unesco declared a World Heritage Site in 1995. "Their incredible (beauty) is neither mummified nor marbleized," marveled sociologist Gelia T. Castillo. The terraces "are a living heritage that must be planted to rice every year. [Otherwise] there will be neither rice nor terraces."

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts has invested to restore Ifugao's terraces. Tourism officials back festivals. Less obvious is the fact that the terraces have lost half of their farmers. Almost 80 percent of them can no longer harvest enough rice to feed their families. On the average, it is said, the rice produced lasts only 5.1 months.

A Wageningen University study reveals that only 60 of 155 communal irrigation systems are operating. Surrounding forests and grasslands are depleted. "Incursion of modern political systems weakened traditional communal activities."

Behind those glitzy terrace postcards is the country's third poorest province. Ifugao is wedged between Myanmar and Zimbabwe, indicators of Philippine Human Development Report show. An Ifugao baby has a life expectancy of only 63 years, compared to 71 years for a Novo Ecijano. Maternal mortality is high. Only 40 out of every 100 students graduate from high school, compared to Iloilo's 53.

A Cordillera analysis shows that the amount of land for intensive cultivation has been exhausted, even as population grows. The traditional property system is no longer adequate. Seven out of every 10 children find a non-farm job or emigrate.

"This (is) exactly what the children are doing with corresponding consequences on the sustainability of the rice terraces," Castillo writes. "It is no surprise that the young ones, particularly those who have gone to school, migrate to … other provinces such as Isabela, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, Pangasinan and Baguio City."

Limits to natural life-support systems are being breached massively. But this has not upset minds mired in long vanished abundance. "There's more where it came from," officials shrug.

Can our vision be broader? With our scientists, thinkers and academics, can we not figure out these invisible price tags? If not out of altruism, then we should do so to see the extortionate cost of a devastated environment.

In his book "The Governance of Ecology," former Environment Secretary Victor Ramos provides some keen insights. "Unless some political genius comes up with a replacement for government as the arbiter for sustainable development, we have no other recourse but to work together, to ensure that our environmental future is not held to ransom."

Ramos runs through the issues confronting stakeholders, from government and business to NGOs. "Local governments," he notes, "are in the best position to create the most environmentally informed communities." He pinpoints features that make for effective ecological governance in a country often paralyzed by personality politics.

Resolving the common crisis "in our environmental present and future," Ramos says, is not only for the strong but the creative.

All should contribute in settling those invisible price tags. After all, they too have grandchildren.

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Politics

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Conrado de Quiros

"WE CAN ONLY BECOME A MODERN PHILIPPINES by slaying the dragon of 'politics as usual.' Politics dominates our lives way out of proportion to the real needs of the people and a change in politics must be accompanied by a change in our system of government. To that end, we seek to amend the Constitution."

So Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo told a group of local and foreign legal luminaries at the Global Forum on Liberty and Prosperity. The title of that forum alone was no small satirical barb on the state of things under her rule. Liberty and prosperity are the two things this country does not have, thanks to her. But as satire goes, nothing beats her observation that this country is so besieged by politics it can do with a respite from it. What makes it satirical is she herself.

That statement comes from someone who came to prominence on the wings of politics of the worst sort. Which was by way of show biz, the one thing she would deign to frown upon later on. She ran for senator as an economist in 1992 and ended up at the bottom of the ladder. She ran as the "Nora Aunor of Philippine politics," complete with (expensive) posters and calendars in full-color Regal poses and topped the field.

That statement comes from someone who became president on the wings of politics. Of the most intense and lofty kind, which was people power, though her own participation in it constituted politics of the worst sort. She never risked life, limb or career to fight Joseph Estrada, she materialized only when the fight was nearly won in the company of Cory Aquino and Jaime Cardinal Sin, striking prayerful poses. She would later bite the hand that fed her, savaging Cory for opposing her.

That statement comes from someone who substituted politics for principle almost as soon as she swore her oath as a people-powered president. She thanked the generals first for coming to her aid, though they did so last; civil society was first. Challenged by "Edsa 3," she spent her next three years trying to appease the Erap loyalists rather than living up to the ideals that shoved her to Malacañang.

That tack made her the most unpopular president since Ferdinand Marcos. She solved that by adding whole new dimensions to *trapo* politics. Namely, by lying barefacedly or, as the local phrase goes, "*harap-harapan.*" To appease an angry nation, she swore on the grave of its national hero she would not run again but instead devote her remaining time to paving the way for her successor. She did nothing of the kind, of course.

That statement comes from someone who ransacked the treasury to campaign. Who's guilty of harboring a billboard complex? Who littered the highways from Aparri to Jolo with outsized billboards assaulting an impoverished people with her grinning face? That is not to speak of the PCSO and Pagcor running ads hourly on TV proclaiming her virtues and the Department of Agriculture giving fertilizer funds to congressmen who needed only to have their minds fertilized. Joc-joc Bolante is living proof of it, and it is the United States, not the Philippines, that is prosecuting him. With no taint of politics.

That statement comes from someone who spoke with Garci demanding to win by one million votes.

That statement comes from someone who became president a second time on the wings of politics of the most vicious sort. That was by way of a coup—a coup wrought not by God but by Garci, not by bullet but by ballot, not by people power but by *trapo* power. It was not at Edsa 2 that GMA mounted a putsch, it was at Elections 2004.

That statement comes from someone who turned her back on the very thing that brought her to power. What brought her to power was the impeachment of Erap, a luminous exercise in transparency, and the massing of people at Edsa, a more luminous exercise in democracy. What kept her in power was EO 464 preventing witnesses like Gudani and Balutan from testifying against her, a malicious exercise in opacity, and CPR, a carte-blanche order to scuttle rallies, preferably violently, which was a vicious exercise in tyranny,

That order comes from someone whose answer to a "withdrawal of support" by military officers was to plunge the country into martial law.

That statement comes from someone who has added still new meanings to political expedience by murdering people. Today, close to 100 journalists have been killed and a whole barangay of political activists has been "salvaged" or made to disappear. At one point, the killings were happening at one a day. And just when we thought it was tapering off because GMA was embarrassed on her last trip abroad, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay's security chief was shot to death in broad daylight and a couple of Aglipayan ministers, one of them its former *maximo obispo*, were murdered. Can there be a worse sort of politics than the murderous sort?

That statement comes from someone who tried to oust a duly elected official while not being one herself. By Ronaldo Puno's own avowal, he wasn't the one who signed the papers suspending Binay; Eduardo Ermita did, and by extension GMA herself. If the suspension hadn't been defied and protested frenetically by Binay, his followers, the folk of Makati, businessmen and bishops, civil society and uncivil media, GMA might have gotten away with showing that right here right now, she can do pretty much as she pleases. I grant that's not "politics as usual." That is politics most unusual.

I agree completely: "Politics dominates our lives way out of proportion to the real needs of the people." The real needs of the people are to have a president they voted for, to have the officials they did vote for not worry about being suspended, and, never mind even all that, just not to be murdered. That can't be gotten by changing the Constitution.

Guess what change will do the trick.

* * *

Tomorrow, Wednesday, Oct. 25, the Stop the Killings bar tour stops by Saguijo Bar, 7612 Guijo St., San Antonio Village, Makati. Featured artists: Parokya ni Edgar, Paramita, Ginilìng Fest, Salindiwa, and Spy. Show starts at 9:30. Stop inventing excuses, go there.

Another reason to shift to parliamentary

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

STAR COLUMNIST BOO CHANCO OPINED IN HIS column yesterday that "even if the Cha-cha advocates fail to establish their dream of a unicameral parliament headed by Joe de V," the Senate is already in danger of being "virtually abolished." This is because, he argued, recent surveys indicate that reelectionist senators with more substance could be edged out by candidates with showbiz connections or celebrity status. He cited the case of Sen. Joker Arroyo, the lion of the Estrada impeachment trial and the defender of a number of constitutional issues before the Supreme Court, who appears to be in danger of being nudged out of the winners' circle in the 2007 elections by showbiz people and other popular names. Chanco said Arroyo's poor showing in the recent Pulse Asia survey could be the reason he's thinking of not seeking a second term.

* * *

I had heard this rumor about Arroyo earlier, which is indeed sad. But it buttresses my contention that we need to do away with the Senate and just have a unicameral parliament. Why spend P1.2 billion for a Senate that would just be filled up by showbiz and celebrity types who are ill-equipped for the cerebral deliberative work the job entails? Besides, having two chambers, where committee hearings are duplicated, is a very expensive proposition, not to mention the fact that it makes lawmaking a very slow process. All these don't help our country's aspiration to become a dynamic, competitive and modern nation.

* * *

Cha-cha critics assert that we need the Senate in order to assure quality legislation. The premise is that bills passed by the House are of poorer quality because they are enacted faster. Conversely, because senators take forever to deliberate on them, theirs are superior. I think House members would challenge this criticism. I can think of a number of Senate output, such as the Visiting Forces Agreement, that turned out quite full of loopholes. The Senate has also sat on at least two dozen very crucial bills to modernize and reform the economy.

Given our needs in a highly competitive global age, legislative inaction/delay cannot be extolled as virtues at all. What is obvious is that there are good and competent men and women in both chambers, who should be elected to a unicameral legislature that's expanded to realistically represent the present population. These MPs should respond to the legislative challenge to lift this country from poor Third World status to Second World in perhaps a decade. But this won't happen if we retain our two perpetually gridlocked chambers.

* * *

The Supreme Court ruling on the validity of people's initiative is awaited by the entire nation with bated breath. All we ask the high magistrates is to give the Filipino people the chance to vote or reject the parliamentary set-up in a plebiscite. The issue is: Do we want a system that will usher the country to modernity and progress through the parliamentary/unicameral system, or do we retain the discredited presidential/bicameral system that hasn't work in the past 60 years? Let the people decide.

* * *

Cecile Alvarez and I recently taped two dzRH shows which dealt with the Philippine General Hospital's year-long centennial celebration that began last Aug. 17. In one segment, we invited Ms. Rita Villanueva-Tamse, a 1978 graduate of the UP College of Nursing and PGH's deputy director for nursing services. We asked her to give us an overview of the nursing profession and recent problems, including the leak in the board exams. Tamse traced the first waves of foreign deployment of RP nurses to the late 1970s in the Middle East, followed by a big demand from the United Kingdom. She said there's a cycle that last 10 years, but the really big hiring binge began in the first years of this century, when US hospitals started offering immigrant visas to foreign nurses, resulting in their unprecedented mass migration. This, in turn, was met by an upsurge in the number of nursing schools—180 in 2000 to more than 400 now.

The problem, Tamse stressed, is that nursing middle-managers began disappearing, and this affected the profession inasmuch as nurses don't learn all they need to know in the classrooms, but in the hospitals. To monitor standards at the 400 nursing schools, the Commission on Higher Education technical committee only has six members, and the few members of the Board of Nursing cannot review thoroughly the training at 170 hospitals. The deterioration in nursing education began to show in the increasing mortality rate. In the last exams last June, for instance, out of 40,000 graduates who took the exams, only 17,000 passed. To deal with the high mortality rate and to ensure that the graduates continue to patronize them, a few unscrupulous nursing review centers began conspiring with some nursing officials to leak the questions in the board exams.

Tamse stressed that RP nurses are highly valued all over the world, but it's important to show to the world, too, that we don't tolerate board exam shenanigans.

* * *

We asked her what can be done to retain our nurses. And she said that while it's difficult to fight the huge incomes they earn abroad, more recognition for what they do here would help. For instance, there could be more development seminars for nursing practitioners, which could give them the feeling that "the industry is also investing in me." She pointed out that competency-building programs have been a pillar of the PGH nursing services. These include a six-month program in clinical nursing, a mentorship program in research for nurses at the thesis-writing stage of their masteral degree program, and clinical observership for returning nurses, to reorient them.

Dreams and commerce

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I DON'T KNOW IF THIS APPLIES ONLY TO THE Philippines, but educational trends here are actually dictated, not by employment and market demands in the country, but by market demands abroad, specifically the United States, and by labor and migration policies of the US and other "destination" countries.

In my teens, all of us five sisters felt tremendous pressure from my mother whose life-long dream had been that at least one of her daughters become a nurse, emigrate, earn dollars and send home the money. Even better would be if one of us would earn a coveted "green card" and send for her and install her into a life of blissful retirement in the US.

Of course, in keeping with the usual run of such stories, none of us chose my mother's career path of choice.

Eventually, her dream of sending abroad a nurse-daughter faded, not because Mama had reconciled herself to our personal ambitions, but because the demand for nurses, especially in the US, tapered off. Tough immigration policies made it difficult for Filipino nurse-applicants to enter the US, unless there was an actual job waiting for them.

But while demand for nurses abated, demand for other types of workers heated up: physical therapists, caregivers, and eventually, teachers. Such spikes in demands for specific occupations were met by corresponding spikes in enrolment in these courses in local schools. And woe to students who found themselves in the middle of a two-year or four-year course when the trend shifted downward, they were suddenly rendered unemployable. But those were the breaks to students and their parents banking on overseas employment: it was all a gamble.

* * *

THESE days, young people and their parents are banking on a nursing degree and passing the board exams yet again as a surefire way of obtaining a high-paying job abroad. With high demand matched with accommodating policies, working as a nurse in the US and the rest of the developed world has become a viable option again.

In true Pinoy fashion, and based on the "*lechon manok* and hot *pandesal*" school of business development, nursing schools and training hospitals, alongside nursing review centers, mushroomed all across the metropolis and in urban centers around the country. When education authorities, including the deans of the older and more established nursing schools and colleges, talk of the "commercialization" and the "falling standards" of nursing education, they refer mainly to the many "upstart" nursing centers, which churn out graduates who receive only minimal and sub-standard training.

And then, to ensure that these graduates meet the minimum requirement of nursing employment—getting a passing grade in the nursing board exam—the schools send them to classes in review centers they either established themselves or are allied with. And because a review center's reputation rests on the number of passers it manages to produce, these centers resort to all means fair or foul to even the odds.

* * *

THAT those who pass the board exams relying on leaked questions and close coaching would end up as incompetent nurses who present a threat to the lives and health of patients seems to be of little concern to such nursing "educators."

Even worse, the pressure to increase the number of passers among their graduates has led to schools and centers corrupting the very system designed to weed out the competent from the incompetent, the skilled from the unskilled, the knowledgeable from the ignorant.

In an earlier interview, Professional Regulation Commission Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero bristled at talk that the results of the nursing board exams is the indicator of the quality of nursing education in the country. "The test only measures what a nursing graduate knows at that particular time. The quality of a graduate's education depends on the knowledge and skills imparted by the institution itself."

But it is passing the licensure exam that vouches for a nurse's basic competency, which is why test-takers and reviewers resort to short-cuts and inside knowledge to gain an advantage.

A news report says the Commission on Higher Education is preparing a new regulation that would make sure that a review center which has been involved in a "controversy" would no longer be able to do business. The report has been taken as referring to the three review centers implicated by the National Bureau of Investigation in the leakage.

* * *

BUT moving against review centers involved in the scandal should be just the first step in a series of moves to return nursing education in the country to its previous status of respectability.

You may recall that some months back, senior officials of CHEd resigned after their ruling against non-performing nursing schools (schools which had failed to produce board passers in recent years) was superseded. Some said the action of the CHEd chair was due to politicking and influence-peddling of a prominent supporter of the President, who owns a chain of colleges, including a network of nursing schools.

The problem bedeviling nursing education and training here, then, is not just a matter of keeping the licensure tests above-board and free from cheating, but also of making sure that nursing schools themselves are held to the highest standards of training, and that regulatory bodies, like the CHEd, are allowed to implement policies without political interference.

There's little we can do about parents' dreams for their children, or students' dreams about lifting their families out of poverty. We wish they were motivated by other reasons, but at the very least the country owes them a good education in exchange for their valuable investments.

Why quibble over definitions?

COMMENTARY

Ramón S. Orosa

UNDERLYING ALL THE LEGAL ARGUMENTS about the difference between amendment and revision are more substantive issues that need to be given priority. It is a sad commentary on our legal minds that such a big case is being made out of a distinction which even Black's Legal Dictionary does not make, a distinction that belies the plain meaning of what the Constitution says.

The real issue is the underlying principle of a people's sovereignty, which the Constitution enshrines in its Preamble: that all sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them. It is a principle which, in my view, transcends even the freedom of speech. If people are sovereign, then all government authority, even that authority which sits as the final arbiter of the plain meaning of the Constitution, the Supreme Court, must respect that sovereignty.

This is a question of whether the majority of the people in this nation ought to have final say on matters that have to do with governance and that petitions to amend the Constitution can be brought before them without resort to obtuse legal maneuvering. Some of the elite like to mouth this slogan but few believe it, for in their minds, this nation will be in great trouble if the majority will prevails and they point to Joseph Estrada as the prime example. Respecting the people's sovereignty also means that their ability to hold on to power may well be taken away from them and this they detest.

Of course, the idea behind elections is that no one has a permanent hold on positions of authority without the consent of the governed, expressed periodically through elections that are hopefully free and clean. It underlies our choice of a representative, democratic form of government as the basis by which this nation is to be governed and our people shall live and relate to one another. Representative government is even more telling because of the poor state of our educational system and economy, and so people look up to their leaders for guidance as many of these issues are beyond their ken. And in consultation with their local leaders, they have signed the petition.

I suppose one could make the argument that a democratic, representative form of government that espouses the rule of the majority is nothing but Pollyannaish thinking. This concept was dreamt up in America during a time and a season that was unique and it sprang from the American people's own experience of being migrants fleeing persecution, abuses and lack of opportunity. In fact, representative democracy emanating from a people's sovereignty has been conceded to be slow and often inefficient, but time has demonstrated amply that it is still the best and most effective form of government for its unqualified support of human dignity and rights and the need for the consent of the governed. That is why, despite the generally reactive nature of the 1987 Constitution, that sovereignty is particularly recognized and the means by which it is to be expressed, laid out. But, whatever the quality of the Constitution, it was ratified by the people who only partially and for the most part poorly understood both its content and its meaning.

The Constitution also did not emanate from the "people" even if the persons that wrote it were part of the "people." The members were appointed by Cory Aquino and the results reflected both their angst toward the Marcos dictatorship and their reaction to the events that preceded her takeover as a "revolutionary" government. Its adoption was sponsored by the government. This puts on the same plane the advocacies of today, which are the work of the constitutional commission whose members were appointed by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Thus, I found it odd that a justice of the Supreme Court sought to establish that some people probably signed the petition without understanding what they signed, especially when there is still a mandated period of campaign and the eventual plebiscite. This had led to the questioning of the petitioners' counsel whether he was willing to entrust the "fate" of this nation to people he did not know, meaning they probably signed something they did not understand. But this is true of any plebiscite—even the ratification of a constitution.

The framers of our Constitution must have realized that to establish a test before either signing a petition or casting votes is to fail to understand what a representative democracy is and espouse rule by the elite. But probably it was an off day for the justice, because the Supreme Court has in the past ruled decisively on petitions signed by the people, such as recall petitions, that the only test was whether the petition was accompanied by a certification by a Commission on Elections officer that that officer had verified the signature with the list of registered voters in a manner deemed fit.

It is also foolish to think that the campaign for signatures needed to cover all of the people because the Constitution clearly requires only the signatures of 12 percent of the registered voters and 3 percent from each legislative district.

Is it too much to expect that true wisdom and not just legal luminosity will prevail as the justices consider these weighty matters? Will their judgment reflect the common meaning of the Constitution's words?

Time will tell, but I suspect no one is making bets. It is just a sign of the times. Far too many people see our situation as like a cup that is half-empty, but optimists remain hopeful that our cup, while definitely not running over yet, is half-full.

Ramón S. Orosa is the CEO of the Orosa group of companies.

Frozen delights

YOUNG BLOOD

Karen J. Azarraga

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

WHAT, PLUTO IS NOT A PLANET? I HAVE LIVED MY ENTIRE life believing that it was so. Now, one tiny detail like its not being able to "clear its neighborhood around its orbit" has dislodged it from the cosmic elite. And just like that, Pluto, the coldest planet, has become just another celestial object, significant still but not as special as it used to be.

Sad, but is this how life really is? Doesn't anything really last anymore?

What happened to Pluto reminds me of frozen delights. I often like to say that life is like ice cream, with a lot of flavors to choose from. There are the regular fruity and chocolatey kind and the special ones with nuts. If you're the all-natural type, then you can go for the no-sugar-added, fat-free, real-fruits, real-everything variety. You can even have weird and unimaginable flavors, too. Ever heard of a New York Duck Tarpaper Ripple?

It's all a matter of what appeals to your palate. You choose your flavor, then you either have your fill in one sitting or savor it bit by bit, nut by nut, one marshmallow at a time. If there's any left, you put it back in the fridge, and let it freeze. But when you take it out again, it wouldn't taste exactly the same way when you first had it. If you choose to consume everything at one time, you might get saccharine overkill and brain freeze. So, you let ice cream waste and melt.

Life's like that. Nothing stays. You cannot hold on to something or someone regardless of how much it suits you or fits your self-concocted fanstasies. Sure, you have a field day thinking of all the possibilities and what-nots. But it all boils down to taking everything as it comes and then letting go. You cannot hold on for long. Ice cream melts, life goes by. Ice cream freezes, life stands still. But does it really?

They say it always starts from knowing what you really want and then the magic will begin to happen. I have a friend who left his stable job for something he loved most: basketball. If you're a pragmatist, you'd ask, why, why, why? But I'm not. My friend is exactly where he wants to be, he loves what he's doing and he's good at it. The magic begins. That's his ice cream flavor.

Somebody wise told me that it's better to take the plunge and risk a lot than never to try at all and be trapped in your own web of regret. Being on the safe side is like freezing your ice cream for a long time. Like a polar bear in hibernation. Everything comes to a halt. When you think it's time to take it out, it may be too late. If you're lucky enough, you'll find it better tasting. But most often, it will be stone cold and bland.

I have had my share of what-if moments—chances I passed up, not being true to what I really felt, shots that I blew, adventures I failed to undertake. Let's just say that being the ice queen is an attractive proposition—if you live in Pluto, that is. Your best hope, I guess, is that life will give you a second chance to make things better. But if that doesn't happen, you just have to let it go. Still a tough cookie never makes the same mistake twice.

Sometimes, you choose the wrong flavor or maybe you let it stay out for too long. Pitfalls and setbacks come and you find yourself wasting time. Or so it seems. But if you really think about it, pains and disappointments make you more real. You suddenly find answers to questions you've been mulling over. You risk, you fail; you rise, you fall; you love, you hurt; you let go, you move on; and then you love again. Until finally you find your favorite. Then, you realize you have to taste everything to know what it is you really want.

Once you know your ice cream flavor, you'll always come back for it. It would be something that stands out from the rest. Sure, it may seem anticlimactic to have the same piece over and over again, but it's your one true thing, and it's all yours. It isn't time squandered after all.

The unexpected happens every day. I have often wished to see a shooting star. I am fascinated by them. I used to doodle every corner of my notes with shooting stars, and sometimes I spend many long minutes just staring out into the sky, waiting for them. I couldn't care less what others think about it, I'm a shooting star junkie. But as they say, the more you chase it, the more it eludes you

Then, I saw one. No, it wasn't the time when an orbit fan blade fell on my head. It was this one special night when it darted through the sky. And it faded away, as quickly as it came. The thing is, I finally had that moment, and it was perfect. What you've been waiting for all your life. You don't have it, yet you have a memory of it. If ice cream melts, then nothing lasts forever. But you always remember your favorite.

I'm nuts about ice cream. On a good day, give me ice cream anytime. I guess it's never too late to learn that life can be as fun, sweet and simple as that. Living is knowing what you want, not letting the moment pass you by, and making things happen.

Nothing stays, indeed. But if you're brave enough to take the risk for something that is for keeps, what you have is worth holding on to. It's your sugar cone. And surely that one won't melt.

Karen J. Azarraga, 28, is a financial analyst in a giant manufacturing firm.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Failing system

"It's not the athletes who fail. It's not the attitude of the athletes that fails. It's the system that fails the athletes."

—*Michael Keon, 2005 SEA Games training director*

Surviving Marcos

"I have survived 20 years of relentless persecution. The truth has prevailed."

—*Imelda Marcos on her acquittal in one of several graft cases filed against her*

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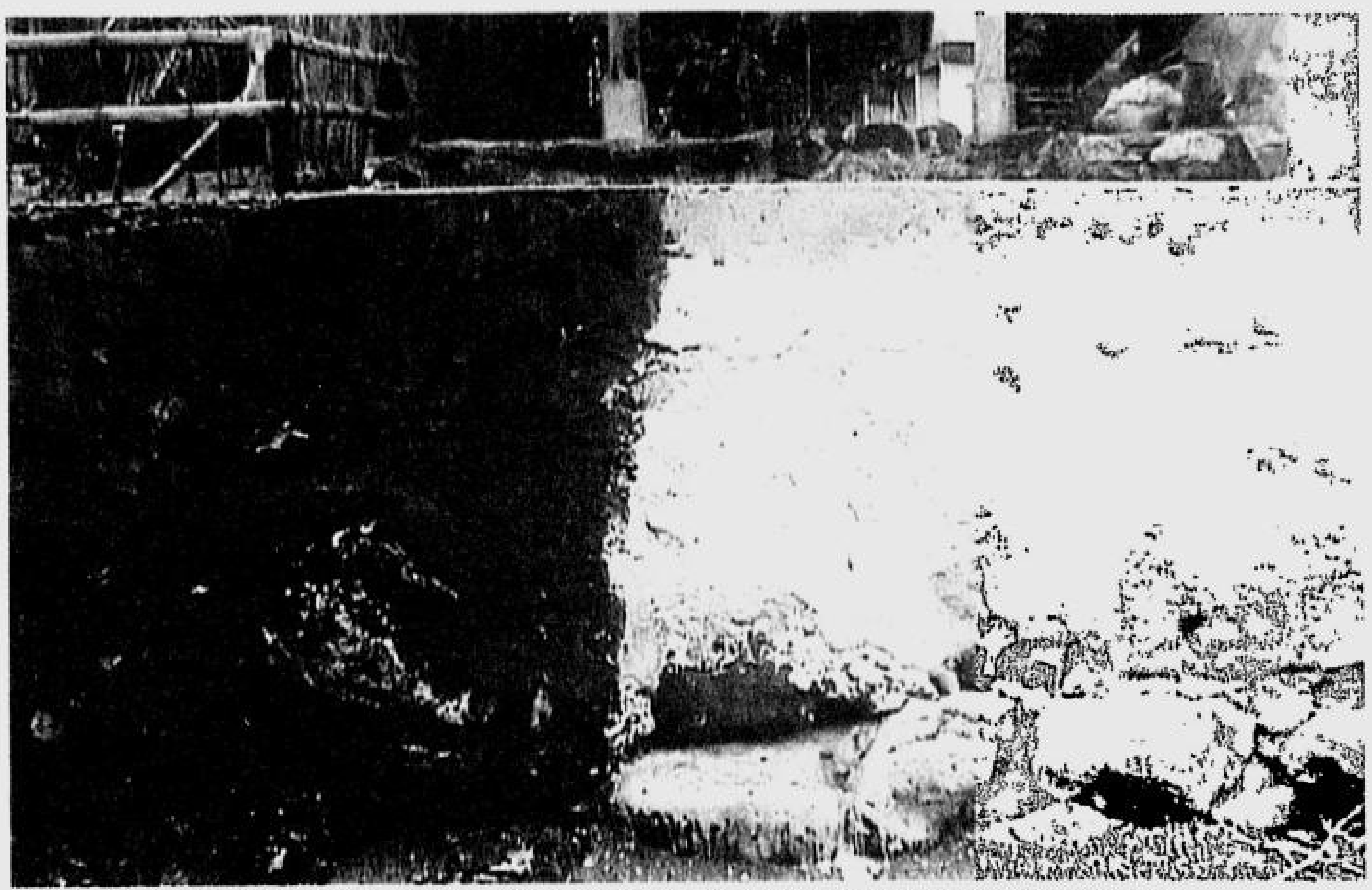

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Painting over the sludge stain on a breakwater at Barangay La Paz, Nueva Valencia.

'Cleanup' of oil spill poses more health hazards

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE NEWS item on the admission of Petron workers that they were given instructions to just cover the traces of MT Solar 1 oil spill on Guimaras island. (PDI, 10/19/06)

I was in Guimaras late August and saw with my own eyes what the workers reported. When I visited Barangay La Paz, Nueva Valencia, for example, I noticed that something was wrong with the way the shore looked then: the stretch near the water was black with sludge, while the inner stretch was white with sand. When I dug a few inches into the white sand, I uncovered black sludge underneath. Even the black oil stain on the breakwater was painted over.

Worse, in the island barangay of Guiwanon, Nueva Valencia, recovered oil sludge and contaminated debris were dumped and buried in an uncontaminated farm land near the shore.

It is deplorable that those who were responsible for the oil spill—an accident they claimed—would have no qualms about exposing the affected communities to more health hazards by merely sweeping the contamination under the rug, so to speak. We wonder what could happen should the affected areas be finally declared clean after this sweep-the-dirt-under-the-rug method of cleanup.

Where is justice here? After the worst disaster ever to hit the Guimarasnons, an attempt is apparently being made to fool them.

Petron must face up to their responsibility by doing a thorough cleanup of the oil spill.

—REY PALACIO, coordinator,
Research & Public Information,
Citizens' Disaster Response Center,
West Triangle Homes, Quezon City

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Lafayette twisted Greenpeace statement

IN HIS LETTER TO THE EDITOR (PDI, 10/17/06), Lafayette's Bayani Agabin took exception to a statement that we did not make. We wish to correct this, and other factual errors he made, which we feel reveal much about the kind of fact-twisting Lafayette employs to distract the public from the real issue of their accountability in environmental disasters. The fact is, until now, Lafayette has not addressed the issues of fish kills in the island—instead, every time a fish kill occurs, it cries "sabotage" or "hoax."

Agabin claimed that in our letter, "Biased reporting in favor of Lafayette?" (PDI 9/6/06) we said that Lafayette accused Greenpeace of "pouring huge amounts of pesticide into a creek." We ask Agabin to read our letter again. It never referred to any Lafayette statement, neither was it directed at Lafayette. It referred to a press release issued by Sorsogon Gov. Raul Lee, which we said contained unsubstantiated and outrageous allegations against Greenpeace. Strangely, Agabin repeatedly referred to Governor Lee's press statement as Lafayette's.

He also suggested that after we took water samples in Rapu Rapu creeks, it took us only a few hours to come up with our findings on those samples and release these in Manila. Again, we ask Agabin to reread our statement. The water samples were taken on Aug. 2—or 22 days before the findings were made public on Aug. 24. In fact, Greenpeace took the samples in the company of Lafayette security and community members. Greenpeace normally conducts sampling independently. But in our earlier independent visit to the island last July 26, one of our activists, while taking water samples, was harassed, held at gun point, detained, and questioned by unidentified security personnel outside the mine premises.

Our findings on the water samples showed levels of cadmium, copper and zinc that were more than a hundred times higher than the normal levels in river water.

Agabin also claimed in his letter that Lafayette intends to initiate programs to give back to the community. The truth is, as long as mining operations continue in the island, nothing can compensate for the permanent loss of resources, missed economic opportunities, collateral damage to local livelihood and marine life, as well as for the threats to human life and safety that the island, its environment and its people will have to bear with.

The mine is a disaster waiting to happen—aside from the acid mine drainage that seeps into the island's creeks, it is located near a fault line and inside a typhoon zone. When the next disaster occurs, will Lafayette face the issues or cry "sabotage" yet again?

—BEAU BACONGUIS,
Greenpeace Southeast Asia

Rule of law violated in cases vs Marcoses

AS REPORTED BY NORMAN BORDADORA (PDI, 10/19/06), the Marcoses (wife and children) are now being charged with crimes allegedly committed by the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

In 1987, democracy was supposedly restored with the ratification of a new Constitution. But the constitutional right of Marcos as an accused to defend himself before a court of justice was never recognized. He could have been called back home from his forced exile to answer all allegations against him. But for national security reasons (the natural shield of administrations against a legal backlash), the government waited for him to die. And so the widow and the orphans are now being charged with his alleged crimes—by substitution.

This is how democracy is practiced in the Philippines where the Constitution and the rule of law are ordinarily abused by the powers-that-be to the prejudice of the sovereign people and the nation.

—MGEN. FORTUNATO U. ABAT (Ret),
fortunatouabat@yahoo.com

denim Destination
METRO
GAISANO

10 suggestions to save GMA from erupting social volcano

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY IS SITTING ON A social volcano. Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales in his EWTN interview last September, said that 68 percent of the Filipinos are wallowing in the quagmire of poverty. The killing of those who oppose the President increases the amount of social magma, which surely will cause the explosion.

Currently, there are rumors about the resignation of some AFP top brass. The MILF has questioned the stalemate in the peace process. There is an agitation in the Senate because it is treated like a doormat by the administration. Neighboring Thailand ousted Thaksin Shinawatra, their prime minister, in a peaceful coup. Flowers and garlands were offered to the military. The justification for the coup was unbridled corruption.

The President faced with a rumbling social volcano should think keenly and deeply. What should be her next move?

As an adage says, there is a bitter medicine to cure a malignant ailment. The President should swallow the bitter pill. Short of resigning, she has to institute radical reforms.

If only the President's men get to read this letter, the following are humbly suggested: (1) Increase the daily wage of all workers. A P200 increase may assuage the growing discontent among workers; (2) Apologize for the inaction of the administration on the killing of members of the political opposition. Make an independent commission to investigate the killings but it should be composed of international observers and NGO members. It should not include government officials. It should not be headed by Justice Jose Melo who is her *kababayan*; (3) Fully subsidize the agricultural sector. Set the agricultural prices of farmers' products at a level where the farmers can enjoy comfortable profit; (4) Create a very big prison cell in every province and city to incarcerate corrupt government employees. Reimpose the penalty of lethal injection exclusively for plunderers. Implement the law which provides for an ombudsman in every municipality; (5) Focus on good manners and right conduct; (6) Stop married women especially with minor children from working abroad; (7) Create more good-paying jobs; (8) Exact the correct taxes from the rich; (9) Speed up justice; and (10) Give priority to education.

These are 10 humble suggestions that, if done with dispatch and determination, may save the President from the eruption of a social volcano. Otherwise, the eruption will be inevitable.

—V. EMMANUEL C. FONTANILLA,
3/F Gonzales Bldg.,
Pioneer Avenue,
9500 General Santos City

DFA urged to help end political killings

YOU ARE PROBABLY AWARE THAT the murder of Rafael Markus Bangit has raised deep concern worldwide. Bangit, 45, and married with four children, was shot and killed in the evening of June 8, 2006 in Northern Luzon. He was traveling with his son by bus—from his home in Tabuk, Kalinga province to Baguio City, where he worked. The initial police report stated that he was attacked by two unidentified gunmen wearing black "bonnet" face-masks as he was about to get back on board the bus, which had stopped at a roadside restaurant. Even as he lay on the ground, the gunman, armed with .45 caliber pistol, continued to shoot him. He died from four gunshot wounds on his chest and stomach. The perpetrators escaped.

Bangit was a leader of the Malbong tribe in Kalinga province and became a *padang* (peace-pact holder), representing and forging traditional peace and friendship agreements between his and other indigenous communities. A long-time indigenous peoples' activist, he played a prominent role in opposing the Chico Dam Project in the 1970s and later became coordinator of the Elders Desk of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance, a chapter of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan). A former barangay councilor, he was also vice chair of the Kalinga provincial chapter of Bayan Muna.

According to colleagues at the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (who in March had complained to the local police that their offices in Baguio were under intensive surveillance by unidentified men) Bangit told them that he thought he was being watched and had been followed while he was shopping in Tabuk with his family. In June, police submitted the recovered shell cases and slug for forensic examination, but reportedly no findings of the initial police investigation had been released by late July 2006.

I welcome the creation of a commission to investigate the political killings in the Philippines. But there should be a guarantee that the work of this commission, or of another investigating body, for that matter, would really be effective and independent and would lead to a prosecution, fair trial and punishment of those found responsible for the political killings reported by human rights organizations. Moreover, I urge Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Gatmaitan Romulo to implement Amnesty International's 14-Point Program for the Prevention of Extrajudicial Executions based on UN principles, so that the series of political killings in the Philippines will stop. I look forward to receiving a kind answer from Secretary Romulo.

—DR. WOLFGANG RECHTIEN,
Amnesty International,
Bolland 77, 59394
Nordkirchen, Allemagne

Living witness to state terrorism now rotting in jail

I AM CERTAIN, I COULD HAVE BEEN one of the early souls flocking to the '70s Bistro to watch the "Stop the Killings." (PDI, 9/26/06). Well, I missed it because I am behind bars.

Before I was abducted (together with two other activists and two farmers of what the media now call the "Tagaytay 5"), I was involved in our organization's search for justice for the hundreds of victims of political killings in the country. We took security measures to safeguard ourselves from getting abducted by the military or police, or worse, getting shot by motorcycle-riding hoodlums. I was unlucky to be kidnapped, but "luckily," unlike others, I have been allowed to "resurface" alive.

I am now a living witness of state terrorism, consigned by the regime's armed minions to rot in a tomb of the living. I am now one of the more than 270 political detainees in the country. Our uniformed kidnappers, who identified themselves as policemen, have maliciously filed a case of rebellion against us before the RTC Branch 18 in Tagaytay City. But we're still luckier than other political prisoners who have been charged with common crimes like murder, arson and extortion.

As we wait for the seemingly endless grind of injustice, more fellow activists, media people and unarmed civilians end up in blood-soaked body bags. Since our abduction on Apr. 28, 2006, at least 20 more victims of political killings have been added to the list. Somehow, quite an unprolific "achievement" given the P1-billion bonus for counter-insurgency operations. It was fortunate for me to be working in Cavite while Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan was in Central Luzon. No, I am not saying that the police and Naval Security Intelligence Force were real gentlemen, they were equally brutal with their own dose of gun-point abduction, robbery and torture. I bet, these were the same horrible experiences the slain victims went through before they came face-to-face with death. I can attest to how the victims went through "sleepless" interrogation and endured torture before meeting the Grim Reaper.

Although I can still celebrate life through music, I miss the "Stop the Killings" Bar Tour. I will be waiting for the updates on the musical event. But I can't be contented waiting for the developments of Melo Commission, while the administration's terrorist killing machines remain on the loose. Political detainees have to do something. At the very least, I can keep on humming Janis Joplin's classic: "Freedom is just another word." (Who knows, there might be "Free All Political Prisoners!" Bar Tour). I got nothing to lose, anyway.

—AXEL PINPIN,
Base Police Detention Center,
Camp Vicente Lim, Calamba City

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PTA demolishes Boracay structures

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINE TOURISM AUTHORITY HAS started clearing operations at the world-famous Boracay Island over the weekend following President Macapagal-Arroyo's order to remove illegal structures from the island and to beautify the beach's white-sand shores.

PTA general manager Robert Dean Barbers said the task force he created found that 69 establishments had illegal structures that were encroaching on the "no-build zone" delineated by the municipal government of Malay, which has political jurisdiction over Boracay.

Some of the establishments, Barbers recounted, constructed permanent structures despite being granted only temporary permits that clearly stipulated the use of light materials. Others have also extended their facilities toward and nearer the water line.

According to him, the area to be cleared covers 25 meters from established markers and this encompasses the "no-build zone" declared in Malay Municipal Ordinances 96-97 and 2001-131.

"The ordinances were issued as early as 1996. It's been a long time coming and we must uphold the rule of law [which says that] that all structures within the 'no-build zone' must be set back 25 meters and that this designated area must be cleared," the tourism official said.

Aklan Rep. Florencio Miraflores, Malay Mayor Ciceron Cawaling and representatives from the provincial government of Aklan witnessed the start of the demolition over the weekend.

The PTA chief said the clearing operations were welcomed by other resort owners, as well as foreign tourists who complained about Boracay's shrinking shoreline.

Barbers noted that the continuing influx of tourists has led many resorts and other firms to encroach on the shoreline. Prior to the clearing operations, the beach front has been littered with structures used as stockyards for construction waste and debris.

With the unhampered view of the beach restored by the enforcement of the "no-build zone," Boracay's natural beauty would now be maintained, he added.

Asked about the status of PTA's controversial unified water supply and sewerage plan for the island, Barbers replied, "We are appealing to the conscience of the owners of the establishments to stop using ground water and have themselves connected to the sewerage system of the Boracay Waterworks and Sewerage System."

Barbers said PTA erected a big billboard at the municipal plaza listing violators, including those who refuse to subscribe to the BWSS.

BWSS supplies water to Boracay's resorts, residences and other institutions and manages the island's drainage system.

Boracay remains a magnet for foreign and domestic tourists with arrivals increasing by more than 15 percent yearly, generating almost P10 billion in receipts for stakeholders on the island.

Another airline to operate in Clark airport as talks go on

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Top executives of the Philippine Airlines and officials of the state-owned Clark International Airport Corp. have started talks on the prospect of the country's flag carrier to operate at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here.

"We are in discussion with the top management of PAL. The talks are now about the services they will start, the size of the area they need. At this point, they see the potentials of Clark," CIAC president Victor Jose Luciano said in a phone interview on Monday.

In the initial round of meetings, which began this month, Luciano said PAL gave no plan in leaving its hub at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City.

A former United States military airport, the 2,500-hectare DMIA is the biggest international gateway in the Philippines.

Luciano bared the developments in the consultations with PAL as the Angeles City-based Pinoy Gumising Ka Movement (PGKM) lobbied anew for the full development of the DMIA.

The PGKM initiated the local campaign against the contract of the Philippine International Air Terminal Co., where at least two provisions prohibited the construction of an international passenger terminal in other airports until a 10-million passenger quota was met at the Naia 3.

In a statement on Monday, PGKM Chair Ruperto Cruz said, "We need the flag-carrier to fly here at DMIA. This airport will not be truly developed into operational international passenger aviation unless PAL flies here. If Malacañang is indeed sincere in its plan to make DMIA an alternate airport to Naia, then this is the right time that it should prompt Lucio Tan to move his planes here."

Cruz said CIAC officials should not settle for a P1-billion budget if they were serious at seeing the DMIA immediately takeoff. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

BORN: MAY 11, 1979
DIED: JAN. 1, 2001
FAMILY REMEMBRANCE
R.I.P
OCT. 12, 1912

QUIET PLAYGROUND

A child rests from play in the Tanza Cemetery in Iloilo City, a favorite playground of children from the area.

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Ash from Bulusan blankets 4 villages in Irosin

SORSOGON CITY—FOUR VILLAGES in Irosin were blanketed by ash ejected by Bulusan volcano during an explosion yesterday morning, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology and local officials said.

Field investigation showed that light ash falls, measured at 0.5 mm thick, were experienced at Barangays Monbon and Tinampo and traces at Barangays Gulang-gulang and Cogon in Irosin.

The Phivolcs' bulletin yesterday morning showed that the brownish ash column, which drifted southeast and southwest, was recorded at 6:30 a.m.

It added that the activity, which lasted for 3 minutes and 45 seconds, was reflected in its instruments as a small explosion quake.

The ash explosion was the second this month.

Renato Solidum, Phivolcs director, said the volcano was showing signs of abnormal activity but that there was no need to raise its alert status, which was at the lowest level.

But residents have been warned to stay away from a four-kilometer "permanent danger zone" around the 1,560-meter volcano.

Areas beyond but near the danger zone, especially near river channels, should be considered risky because these areas are susceptible to potentially life-threatening volcanic flows, he added.

The last time Bulusan blasted a thick column of ash was on Oct. 10, after nearly four months of relative calm.

It is one of 22 active volcanos in the Philippines, which lies in the Pacific Ocean's "Ring of Fire," where volcanic activity and earthquakes are common.

Bulusan has been showing signs of unrest since coming back to life in March. It also belched ash in June.

The Phivolcs bulletin said the sulfur dioxide (SO_2) emission rate measured yesterday was 787 tons per day, which is above the normal rate of 500 tons per day.

Since 6 a.m. Sunday, it has been recording six volcanic earthquakes, Phivolcs added.

On Thursday (Oct. 19), a minor ash ejection was also recorded at 6:44 p.m. wherein traces of ash deposits were observed at Monbon, Gulang-gulang and Cogon while 0.5 mm thick of ash deposit was measured at Barangay Tinampo.

It was also considered as a small explosion quake, which lasted for 2 minutes. *Bobby Q. Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Mining dam collapse feared after quakes

BOAC, MARINDUQUE—IN THE aftermath of the series of earthquakes felt in the Southern Tagalog region, a provincial executive raised concerns on the possible collapse of the Marcopper dams that could be disastrous for this town and Mogpog.

Provincial Board Member Allan Nepomuceno has requested Gov. Carmencita Reyes to immediately convene the provincial disaster coordinating council to monitor the dams as he believes the province is unprepared for any disaster in case these dams would be damaged by an earthquake.

"Improvised alert systems were installed along the riverbanks and surrounding areas of the dams but these will be helpful only during heavy rains," said Nepomuceno who is also chair of the Provincial Board's committee on public order and safety.

But he cautioned that should there be a breach of the dams due to an earthquake the alert systems would be useless.

"During the rainy season, the people of Boac and Mogpog worry day and night. But the recent earthquakes gave us more things to worry about. We all know that those dams are disasters of unimaginable magnitude waiting to happen," Nepomuceno added.

He suggested that the Marcopper Mining Corp. be made to immediately repair the dams.

The Makulapnit Dam and the Maguila-guila Siltation Dam are among the dams of the mining firm that were identified to be in "imminent danger of collapsing" by the United States Geological Services that require immediate repair.

"At the moment, the only preventive measure that we can think of is to drain the water inside the dams," Nepomuceno said.

The Makulapnit Dam is currently carrying 34 million cubic meters of water and silt while the Maguila-guila Dam carries 20 million cubic meters of water and silt. *Gerald Gene Querubin, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Army says No. 2 NPA man in Albay captured

TABACO CITY—AN ALLEGED top ranking official of the New People's Army in Albay was arrested by the Philippine Army's Military Intelligence Group and the local police downtown here Sunday at 10:40 a.m.

Crisanto Ceriola, 27, aka "Ka Russel" and "Ka Bong" with his wife Agnes Camacho and a companion identified as Felipe Belarde went along with the military and police officers after a short scuffle outside the Fremas Studio, a photography center, along Tomas Cabiles Street.

According to MIG records, Ceriola is the No. 2 man of the Sentrong Depensang Grupo-Front Committee Pluto under the leadership of Eduardo Sevilla aka "Ka Diego" and "Ka Palong" which operates in the towns of Malinao, Tiwi, Malilipot, Bacacay, Tabaco City and parts of Polangui, all in Albay.

2nd Lt. Ryan Chavez, MIG team leader, immediately coordinated with the local police here after his men spotted Ceriola inside the department store.

YASIN MGA
PRENTENG MAKAKALI

WHILE militant leftists protest continued political killings, a group of anticommunist activists rally in Pampanga against alleged NPA abuses.

TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

Chavez said that when the policemen arrived at the store, Ceriola and company were able to proceed to the photo studio.

He added that when the NPA leader went out of the studio he was served the warrants of arrest for murder issued by two separate trial courts in Albay.

In the interrogation at the police headquarters here, Ceriola said he was buying dress for his child who was about to be baptized Tuesday in Barangay Maynonong, Tiwi, Albay.

Recovered from him were a cal. .45 pistol and a hand grenade while another hand grenade was recovered from his wife.

Other recovered items were a cell phone with camera, P10,000 in cash, grocery items and a Yamaha motorcycle with license plate ET-2478.

Aside from the two murder cases filed against him, Ceriola was tagged as suspect in the killing of Gerry Broncano on Feb. 1; Luis Broncate, Efren Capuz, all of Barangay Sua in Malinao town; Danilo Capil of Ogob, Malinao; and Alfredo Borromeo of Sua-Igot in this city, added the report of military intelligence operatives.

Ceriola and wife were brought to the 901st Infantry Brigade at Villahermosa, Daraga, Albay for the tactical interrogation while Belarde was detained at the police station.

Later, Noel Brizuela, an employee of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Bicol came to the police station to claim the motorcycle recovered from Ceriola. *Job B. Belen, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Mayor orders arrest of electric linemen

GUBAT, SORSOGON—THE mayor here ordered the police to detain personnel of the local electric cooperative following complaints from consumers whose service connections were cut off by its linemen.

Mayor Ding Ramos issued the order as he called on officials of the Sorsogon Electric Cooperative 2 to show compassion for the victims of Typhoon "Milenyo."

Initially, officials of Soreco 2, which covers the towns of Gubat, Donsol, Pilar, Castilla, Sorsogon City, Prieto Diaz and Barcelona, imposed a 'no payment, no reconnection' policy.

The proddings of local officials led by Gov. Raul Lee, however, prompted a change of heart among cooperative executives who allowed those with unpaid bills to be reconnected.

This, however, compounded the problem as the linemen were found to have become selective as to whom they would accommodate.

Despite the new policy, the linemen still disconnected the power lines of consumers in the guise of 'clearing before actual restoration work.'

This development prompted the Gubat mayor to order the arrest of cooperative personnel involved in the disconnection.

Divina Diaz, chair of the Sorsogon Consumers Association, acknowledged that similar complaints on the 'selective' service of Soreco 2 have reached her office.

She said this would be discussed in the cooperative's next meeting.

Diaz, however, was thankful to the National Electrification Administration-initiated Task Force Ilaw. *Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Gov't can't stop Sierra Madre illegal logging

LUCENA CITY—UNAUTHORIZED mobile band saws that cater to resurgent illegal logging activities have been sprouting at the foot of Sierra Madre in northern Quezon, a reliable source from among the mountain stakeholders reported Monday.

"The underground operation of mobile band saws has again become a lucrative business due to the return of rampant illegal logging activities. It seems that the mountain settlers have never learned from their tragic lessons and the government is not doing anything," the informant said.

The informant has been the source of information of government anti-illegal logging operatives and environmental groups regarding illegal logging operations in Sierra Madre.

The mobile band saw operator is called "tadtad" (chop-chop) in Real-Infanta-General Nakar (Reina) area, said the informant.

"But most of the 'tadtads' are based along the Agos River in the village of Banugao in Infanta town. The place also serves as the transshipment point in the distribution of newly sawn illegal lumber coming from the bosom of Sierra Madre and transported through the river by hired haulers," the informant added.

He said the band saw operator commands a high price in exchange for his services.

"The rate differs as the pricing depends on the location of the logs to be sawn. If it's far and the hauling of saw equipment will be hard for the operator, the illegal logger would spend more," he said.

He added: "Most of the illegally sawn lumber were being sold to sash and furniture makers. The resulting products will be passed off as products of retrieved drifted logs."

Antonio Diwa, head of the local office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Real, said his staff has been working round the clock to monitor the renewed 'modus operandi' of illegal loggers.

"We've been validating all kinds of information, even text messages from total strangers. We're collating all feedback and information before we make our move to save our limited material and human resources," he said.

"But we're ready to pounce on them once we have collected solid evidence," he added.

Diwa said the DENR-manned checkpoints that have been set up along the Reina-Laguna road have been revitalized to also include members of multisectoral groups.

Last week, Antonio Principe, regional director of the DENR-Calabarzon region, announced that they will no longer grant any requests for log retrievals because it was only being used for illegal logging operations.

"The DENR permits were just being used as fronts. The requests for permits have been continuing with seeming no end. There are still lots of pending requests to retrieve and transport timber products but we will no longer allow it," Principe told newsmen here last Monday after his meeting with members of the provincial council.

Last July 14, the DENR allowed a 60-day suspension of the log ban upon the request of Infanta, Real and General Nakar Sash and Furniture Cooperative to dispose of their manufactured wood products from drifted logs and uprooted and fallen trees. The suspension ended last Sept. 14.

Principe admitted before the council the resurgence of timber poaching in Sierra Madre in Quezon province.

"Most of those engaged in the illegal cutting of trees were Dumagats. But I'm sure their financiers were Christians from the lowland," Principe said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

East Visayas hospital offers employment to new nurses

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—DESPITE THE controversy generated by the leakage issue of the nursing licensure examinations last June, the nurses who passed still have a chance to land a job in the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC).

EVRMC chief of hospital Dr. Alberto de Leon said they would hire the June nursing board passers as long as they have the needed requirements for working in a government-supervised hospital.

"Why punish them? We should punish those who committed the mistake and not those who are innocent," De Leon said.

He said that these "innocent" people must be given a chance to work and practice their profession.

"The nursing board is not the only barometer on the credential and the capability of nurses. What is important is that they were able to pass the four-year course and have the needed training," De Leon said.

However, De Leon said they have yet to receive applications from the June 2006 nursing board passers.

"What we have right now are those who passed from the previous board examinations," he said.

The hospital needs more than 30 new nurses to accommodate the big number of confined and walk-in patients. The EVRMC is a tertiary hospital with a 250-bed capacity. At present, the hospital has 146 nurses.

The hiring of nurses who took and passed the June 11-12 exams was put to doubt when its results were questioned due to allegations of leakage that attended the tests.

In Eastern Visayas, Professional Regulatory Commission regional chief German Palabyab and the deans of the leading nursing schools in the region, such as the Doña Remedios Trinidad Medical Foundation and the St. Scholastica's School of Health and Sciences, have denied that students from the region benefited from the leakage.

Based on the records of the regional PRC, 140 of the 204 students who took the tests passed. One, Margaret Leslie Bandoy with an 80.41-passing rate, landed No. 10. She graduated from St. Scholastica.

AR[illegible] INQUIRER VISAYAS

HAPPY FACES
A vendor awaits buyers of painted masks that he tries to sell in time for the celebration of Bacolod City's Masskara Festival. The festival has become famous for the colorful masks that street performers wear as they dance and parade in the city's streets.

Overspending execs of power co-op sacked

By Ansbert Joaquin
Inquirer Central Luzon

CASTILLEJOS, ZAMBALES—THE National Electrification Administration on Friday removed the seven-member board of directors of the Zambales Electric Cooperative II (Zameco II) for lavish spending.

Paulino Lopez, the newly appointed project supervisor who will oversee the operations of the cooperative, said Zameco II's general manager and its rank and file employees were not covered by the reorganization.

"Only the members of the board, including its president, were removed from office," Lopez said.

In a resolution in December 2004, the NEA ordered Jose Dominguez, Zameco II president, removed from office for lavish spending.

NEA audit reports in 1998 and 2003 found that Dominguez's mobile phone bills averaged more than P74,000 a month from 1998 to 2002, despite having a company-issued cellular phone whose billings were charged to the cooperative.

The audit reports also showed Dominguez spent more than P500,000 for plane tickets in his various trips.

Dummy firm

The NEA also found that Dominguez awarded a P20-million systems loss reduction project to his dummy company.

Also ordered removed from office were members of the cooperative's board of directors who received P3.6 million in benefits, allowances and bonuses, which the NEA found to be illegal.

The NEA, however, failed to implement its resolution two years ago after the Zameco II board filed two petitions with the Court of Appeals—one for review and another for certiorari and prohibition.

But the CA, on Oct. 4 this year, denied both petitions for lack of merit, paving the way for the removal of Dominguez and the board members.

The CA also upheld the appointment of Lopez as project supervisor.

Dominguez said the CA decision was not yet final and executory. He said he has 15 days from receipt of the order to file a motion for reconsideration.

In his motion filed on Oct. 18, Dominguez said the NEA has no jurisdiction over the case.

He said the NEA's "umbilical cord" to the cooperatives "has already been severed by law." He also said he was denied due process.

Fidel Correa, Zameco II general manager, assured their consumers that there would be no disruption in the delivery of services as a result of the takeover.

Other perks

In its June 25, 1998 audit report, NEA said the Zameco II directors illegally collected 13th month pay, anniversary bonus, midyear and yearend bonuses, medical and clothing allowance, prompt payment discount bonus and separation payments from January 1989 to September 1997. The amount totaled P3.6 million.

The July 24, 2003 audit report, on the other hand, showed that Zameco II had receivables amounting to P23.5 million from the Central Luzon Power Transmission Development Corp. (CLPTDC) and Zambales Power Corp. which, the report said, were dummy corporations of Dominguez.

Pangasinan townsfolk reject ₱250-M landfill

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAYAMBANG, PANGASINAN—Residents here rejected a proposed P250-million sanitary landfill where garbage from 12 towns and three cities of Pangasinan and nearby provinces would be dumped.

During a public hearing on the project here on Friday, the residents expressed apprehension over the risks that the proposed project posed to their environment, water sources, health and livelihood.

The landfill project will be undertaken by the Waste Integrated Network Systems Inc. (WINS), a company organized in March this year, in an 87-hectare area in Barangay Dusoc here.

Company officials said the garbage would be compacted in areas called "cells" that are equipped with liners to prevent wastes from contaminating groundwater. The leachate (liquid produced from decomposing wastes) will be collected in ponds and will be treated, they said.

They said WINS would put up services such as waste sorting and segregation, recycling and composting, sanitary landfill and landscaped buffer zone.

WINS would also conduct campaigns on proper solid waste management and socio-civic and economic development programs for the village.

The firm's future projects include a special sanitary landfill for medical and hospital waste and power generation.

But most of the more than 1,500 residents who attended the public hearing called by the provincial board were not impressed.

Fr. Manuel Bravo, the town's parish priest, doubted if the sanitary landfill would be as "sanitary" as it was presented by proponents because the project has yet to be tested in other areas.

"This is merely an experiment and the [residents] may suffer because of it," Bravo said.

He said residents of this town, known as the corn belt of Pangasinan, would not want Bayambang to be known as the "basurahan" (garbage dump) of the province.

Benjamin Pagsolingan, 74, questioned why Bayambang would be the center of waste management of the province's different towns when Republic Act No. 9003 (Solid Waste Management Act) "called for clustering of barangays, and not towns," in the establishment of a solid waste management facility.

Most residents said they wanted the facility to be for the exclusive use of the town.

Number of leftist groups in Cordillera growing despite murders

LEFTIST militants who are not killed end up in jail, like this group of farmers who were locked behind bars in a Lucena City jail after they held a rally in front of the mansion of a landowner whom they accused of grabbing their farms.

NINA CATHERINE CALLEJA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

BAGUIO CITY—UNFAZED BY the spate of recent political killings, militant groups in the Cordillera said their number has been increasing.

Windel Bolinget, secretary general of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance, made the declaration during the group's congress on Sunday at Teachers Camp here. He said more activists' groups in the region are "now coming out in the open."

From 130 groups in 2001, the number has increased to 193 under the Arroyo administration, he said.

"Despite the element of fear of being an open target for being associated with a militant group, we see that there are people in their communities who have decided to join the ranks of the activists because they have been pushed to do so," Bolinget told the 100 congress participants, mostly representatives of indigenous peoples' groups.

Issues

"Issues such as human rights violations, militarization and the destruction of ancestral lands due to the so-called development projects have pushed these people to the limit."

He said the "antipeople" policies of the administration have also contributed to what he called "discontent" of the indigenous peoples.

Andres Wailan, vice chair of the farmers' group Apit-Tako, said more farmers in the region are fighting the alleged abuses and acts of harassment against them by the authorities. Farmers in Mt. Province, Apayao, Kalinga and Abra have been experiencing these abuses, he said.

"These farmers are often subjected to harassments because they are accused of being members or sympathizers of the New People's Army," he said.

Beverly Longid, newly elected chair of the CPA, said the group's expansion was triggered by the killing of at least six activists affiliated with the CPA and Bayan Muna.

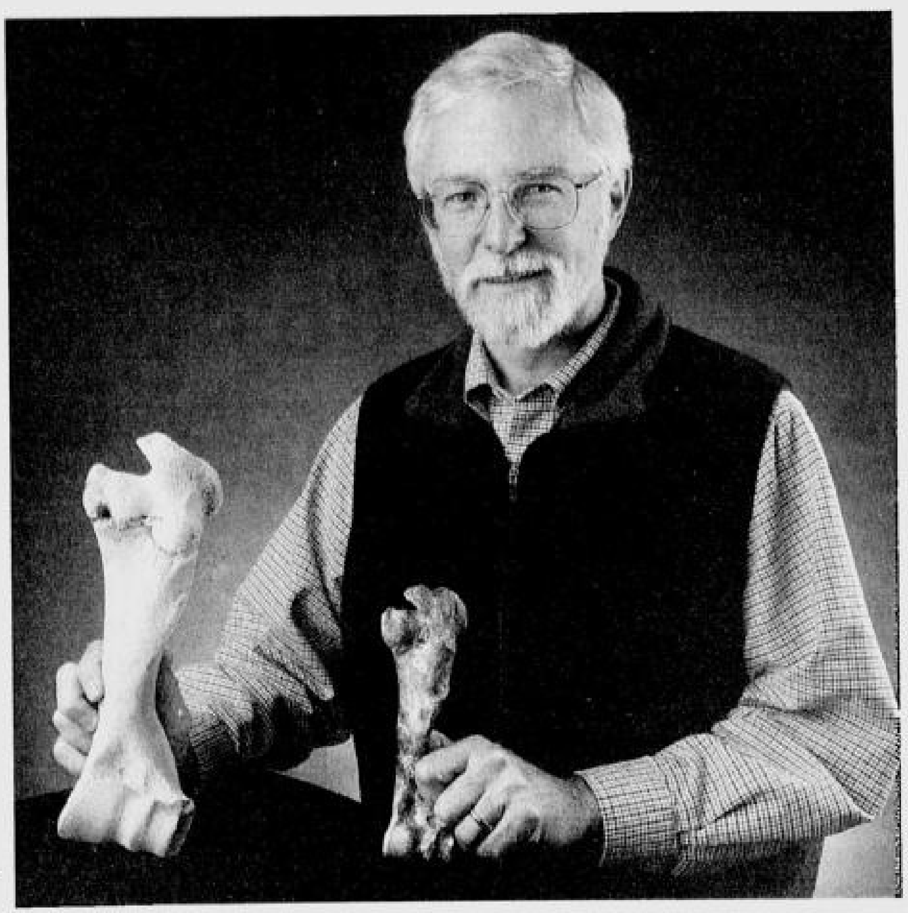
"One of the major issues faced by the activists in the Cordillera is how to confront fear in the middle of political repression, though we cannot use fear as the main reason to stop organizing our ranks," she said.

Easy targets

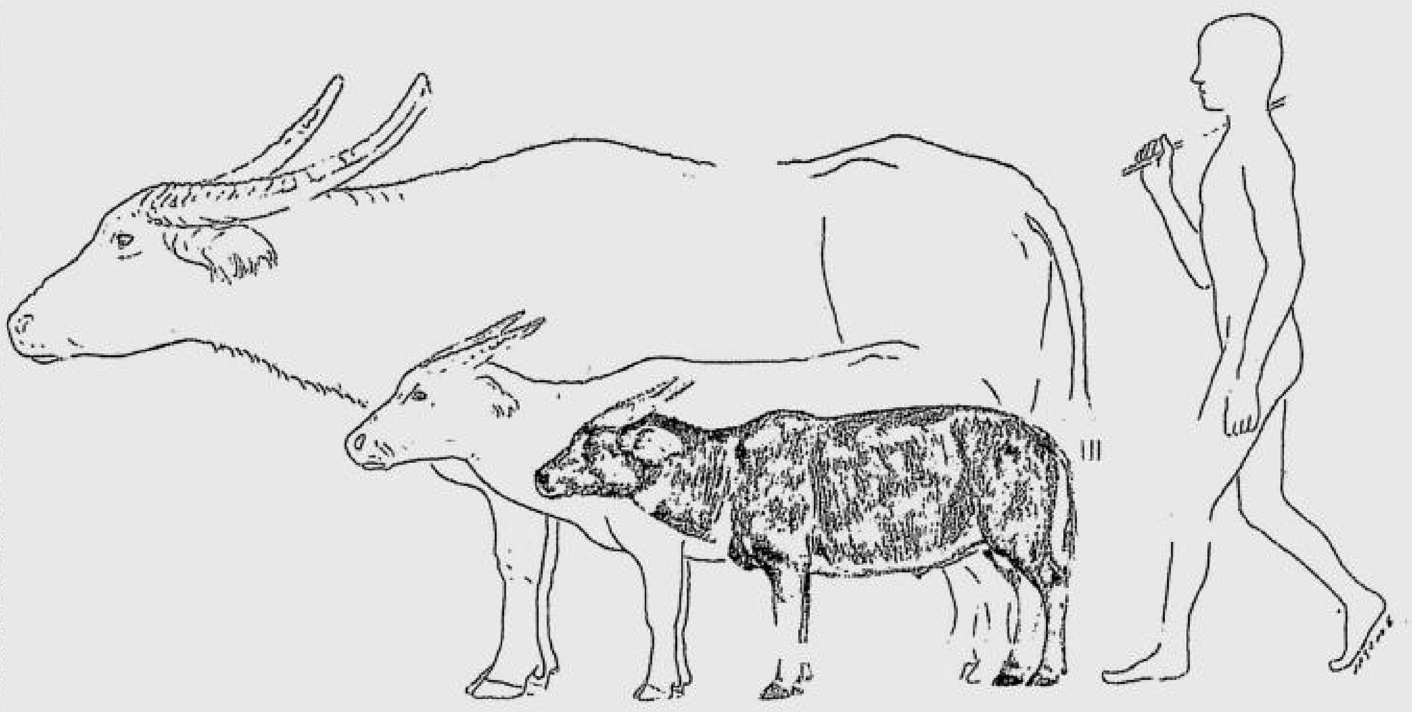
She said of the 173 activists who were killed under the Arroyo administration, 79 came from indigenous peoples' groups.

"We are anticipating more threats and harassments in the coming days because of our rejection of the Charter change," she said.

On Sunday, the congress participants paid tribute to the victims of political killings in the Cordillera: Bayan Muna leaders Markus Bangit, Alice Omengan-Claver and Romeo Sanchez and activists Jose Manegdeg, Albert Terredano and Jose Doton. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



ANCIENT DWARF CARABAO. Larry Heaney, curator of mammals at the Field Museum in Chicago, poses with two of the bones which were left at the museum a decade ago by a curious layman, in this undated handout photo. Researchers say the bones have turned out to be the only known fossil remains of a dwarf water buffalo that roamed the Philippines in the last Ice Age. REUTERS



AN UNDATED image shows a drawing of what the dwarf water buffalo may have looked life, compared to the tamaraw and the continental or domestic water buffalo. REUTERS

GMA honors new Thai prime minister

From page A1

vancing the causes of democracy and peace to nourish the indomitable spirit of the people of Thailand."

Of her talks with Surayud, the President said: "We had a very excellent and candid discussion and, to us, very enlightening."

"We congratulate you as you presented your road map to constitutional democracy which you hope to complete within a year's time," Ms Arroyo added.

For his part, Surayud said: "With your support, the Royal Thai government is determined to expedite Thailand's path to the full restoration and revitalization of democracy."

Surayud said that he was happy to share common perceptions on political, security and economic developments with Ms Arroyo.

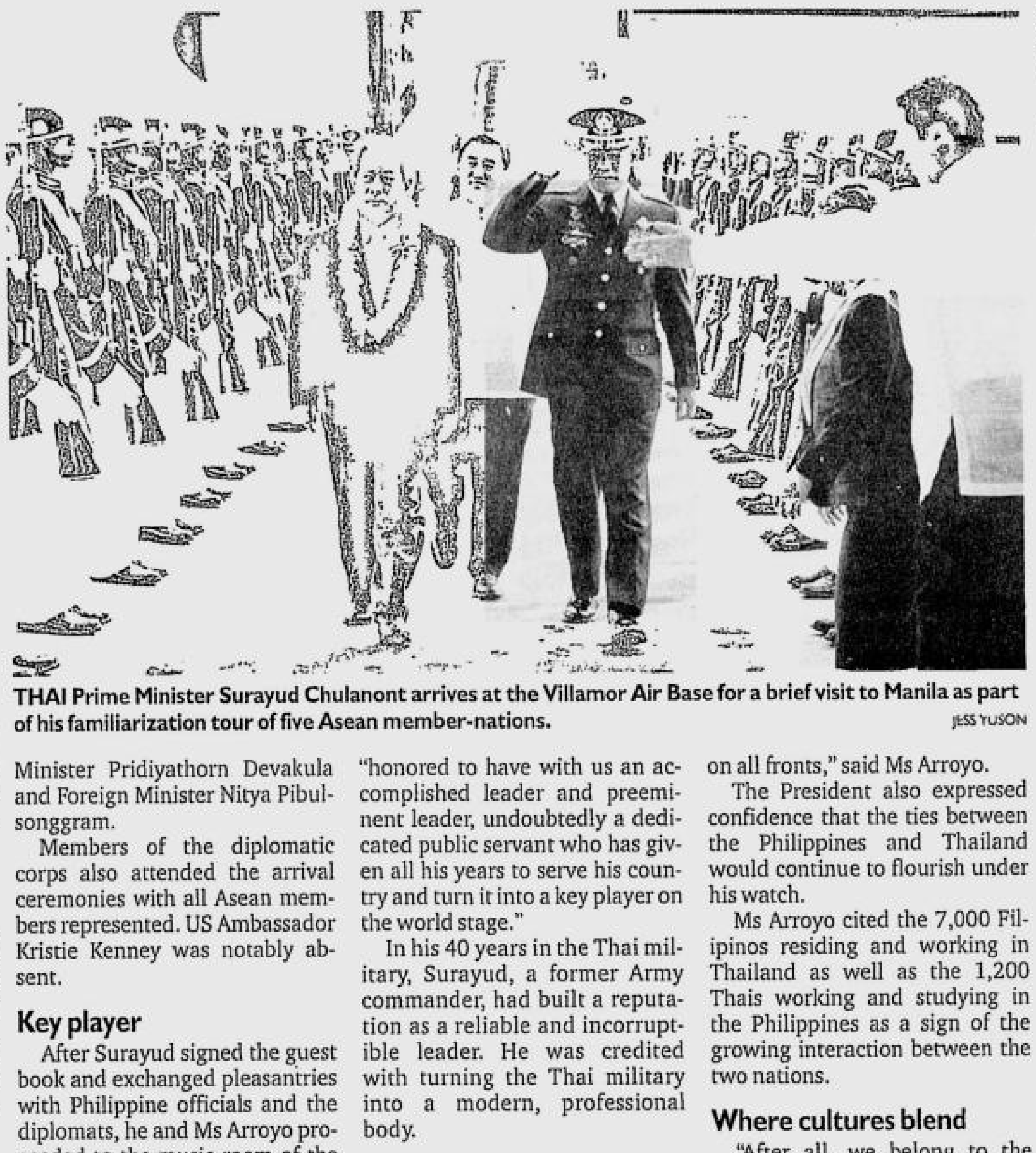
Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said last week that the Philippines respected Thailand's political process but "it does not follow that we agree with their methodologies in changing their leaders."

Dampened by rains

Surayud's visit to the Philippines—his fifth and last stop in a familiarization tour of Thailand's allies—was dampened by a heavy downpour yesterday afternoon, which forced the transfer of an elaborate red-carpet welcome from the Palace garden to the Palace foyer.

On arrival at Malacañang, Surayud was met by Ms Arroyo, Ermita, Trade Secretary Peter Favila and Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla.

Surayud—who had a few bodyguards in tow—was accompanied by a small delegation which included Deputy Prime Minister Pridiyathorn Devakula and Foreign Minister Nitya Pibulsonggram.



THAI Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont arrives at the Villamor Air Base for a brief visit to Manila as part of his familiarization tour of five Asean member-nations. JESS YUSON

Members of the diplomatic corps also attended the arrival ceremonies with all Asean members represented. US Ambassador Kristie Kenney was notably absent.

Key player

After Surayud signed the guest book and exchanged pleasantries with Philippine officials and the diplomats, he and Ms Arroyo proceeded to the music room of the Palace for an expanded bilateral meeting.

Bilateral trade between the two countries totaled $2.89 billion last year.

In her speech during the dinner, which was not open to the media, Ms Arroyo said she was "honored to have with us an accomplished leader and preeminent leader, undoubtedly a dedicated public servant who has given all his years to serve his country and turn it into a key player on the world stage."

In his 40 years in the Thai military, Surayud, a former Army commander, had built a reputation as a reliable and incorruptible leader. He was credited with turning the Thai military into a modern, professional body.

Thai-RP ties

"Having distinguished himself as a valiant soldier on the battlefield, His Excellency Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont now presides over a wider and more challenging arena—which calls for his deep experience and wisdom on all fronts," said Ms Arroyo.

The President also expressed confidence that the ties between the Philippines and Thailand would continue to flourish under his watch.

Ms Arroyo cited the 7,000 Filipinos residing and working in Thailand as well as the 1,200 Thais working and studying in the Philippines as a sign of the growing interaction between the two nations.

Where cultures blend

"After all, we belong to the same vibrant region where cultures and peoples blend in solidarity and goodwill," Ms Arroyo said.

As the chair of the Asean Summit to be held in Cebu in December, the President called on the support of Surayud for "several initiatives that we have laid down in the interest of collective peace, stability and progress."

"Under Your Excellency's inspired leadership, Thailand will have a major part in hastening this process."

Asean tradition

Surayud was installed by coup leaders who ousted billionaire Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Sept. 19.

"The visit to the Philippines is traditionally done by any new Asean leader," Thai foreign ministry spokesperson Kitti Wasinond said, before Surayud arrived in Manila.

"They will discuss the upcoming Asean-China meeting late this month. The other topics will include regional security," he said.

Close to Thaksin

Ms Arroyo, who has herself faced down coup attempts, saw Thaksin as a friend and role model, but Manila has made it clear it will stay out of Thailand's internal affairs.

"I don't think the Philippines will try to push the restoration of democracy in Thailand, even though Arroyo herself was known to be close to Thaksin," said Chayachoke Chulasiriwongs, political science professor at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University.

"This is for diplomacy reasons. She may ask them to explain what has happened but as a leader, she will not push or say something directly."

Surayud's visit to the Philippines follows similar trips to Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia and Indonesia. He will visit Vietnam on Thursday, but has no plans to visit Singapore, Brunei or military-run Burma (Myanmar). *With reports from AFP and AP*

GMA offers . . .

From page A1

(Asean), is ready to help bring North Korea back to the peace table.

"As Asean chair, the Philippines is ready to offer its good offices as a venue to explore means to revive the Six-Party Talks and engage North Korea in a diplomatic dialogue," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

The Philippines is this year's host of the 12th Asean summit, which will be held in Cebu in December.

Following the nuclear test carried out by North Korea early this month, Ms Arroyo had urged Pyongyang to return to the Six-Party Talks.

The talks involve meetings among North Korea, South Korea, the United States, Russia, Japan and China on North Korea's nuclear program and its pullout from the Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2003.

Bunye said that in a teleconference call between Ms Arroyo and Abe on Friday, the Chief Executive reiterated Manila's support for United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1718 and stated the need for the nuclear issue to be resolved through peaceful means.

SC Resolution 1718 imposes weapons and financial sanctions on North Korea for carrying out a nuclear test early last month.

Ms Arroyo also congratulated Abe on his succession of Junichiro Koizumi as prime minister.

"(The President) also expressed hope that under his leadership, the excellent relations between the Philippines and Japan would continue," Bunye said.

Ms Arroyo also congratulated the Japanese Imperial family on the birth of Prince Hisahito, the third child of Prince and Princess Akishimo.

She also thanked Abe for Japan's continued support for the rehabilitation and development of Mindanao.

60 percent of Pinoys doubt SC fairness, says poll

From page A1

been under pressure to favor the petition, but the magistrates were expected to remain independent.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia have been very vocal about their support for Charter change.

Following the news

The SWS also said that two of every five Filipinos (41 percent) followed news reports on the "citizen's initiative" or signature campaign in favor of certain amendments in the Constitution "very or somewhat closely."

Fifty-one percent closely tracked related news in Metro Manila, 43 percent in the rest of Luzon, 41 percent in Mindanao and 29 percent in the Visayas.

Nearly one in two of those who belong to upper classes ABC (47 percent) followed the news closely, as with 42 percent in class D and 35 percent in class E.

The survey also found that trust in the Supreme Court's fair decision on the petition was higher among those who followed the news closely.

Among those who said they had "much trust" that the Supreme Court would make a fair decision on the petition, 22 percent said they followed news reports "very closely," while 16 percent said they followed it "somewhat closely." *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

'Little officials' learn, teach good governance

From page A1

from trooping to computer shops so they can focus on their schooling.

His solution is simple: Ban all forms of computer games in Internet shops.

Sought for comment about the ongoing debate on amending the Constitution, his reply was short, quickly followed by a grin: "I don't know anything about Charter change."

His name is Kim Howell Colasino, a 10-year-old Grade 5 student at Concepcion Integrated School.

He and 14 other grade school pupils were "elected" new officials of the city government last week. They are scheduled to take their oath of office tomorrow morning.

Oops! There are no suspension orders against Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando and members of the city council. They did not resign either.

Children's month

The pupils, also called "little officials," are members of a "little government" formed in the city in celebration of National Children's Month.

Child welfare coordinator Nadeia Sarte said the activity would enable the pupils to learn about "good governance."

"They (children) also have the right to participate and they have the right to express their views and opinions," Sarte told reporters during the presentation of the little officials to the media at City Hall yesterday.

The little officials, who will have a motorcade tomorrow, will observe council sessions and visit a shoe factory and other establishments.

Little Mayor Kimberly Estanislao will sign a memorandum of agreement with a mall for the showing of a 30-second advertisement to promote the use of biofuels.

Consultants

The tenure of the little officials will be short-lived, however. They will have to vacate their posts after two days.

But the children will all be considered "consultants" for the city's efforts to promote children's welfare, according to Sarte. The city is already drafting development, investment and local government plans for children.

The little officials are also expected to help draft a proposed project or ordinance after their exposure to local governance and the community.

The children, presidents of their respective elementary schools, were convened last week for an election, but only the girls were allowed to run for mayor.

Smallest

Colasino is dreaming of becoming a businessman and not a politician. But he said he was happy to be elected little congressman. He is the smallest in the group and could easily be mistaken for a preschool pupil.

Darlene Ovilla, a Grade 6 student at Parang Elementary School, wants to run for public office someday.

Asked what position she was eyeing, her answer sounded like a traditional politician's: "Whatever position the people would want for me."

She said she wanted to help others.

Told that many politicians were perceived to be corrupt, she quickly replied: "Not all of them."

Estanislao, when asked what she thought was the most serious problem of the city, said that while Marikina was known for its cleanliness, "some residents still throw their garbage into the river."

Her vice mayor, Joe-Nel Garcia, said the biggest problem in the city was students staying in computer shops until dawn.

"Owners of computer shops should be told to limit their operating hours, unlike now when they operate as long as there is electricity," Garcia said.

Colasino, who claims he does not play online games, quickly agreed. He said computer games should be banned in the city. Computers, according to him, should only be used for "educational" purposes.

Filariasis afflicts 645,232 Filipinos

By Christian V. Esguerra

AS MANY AS 645,232 FILIPINOS are afflicted with lymphatic filariasis, a parasitic infection that leads to a disfiguring disease called elephantiasis, according to the Department of Health.

Citing the findings of the University of the Philippines' National Institutes of Health, the DOH said 76 percent of these cases were in fourth- or sixth-class municipalities, meaning the poorest towns. If left untreated, it said the figures could rise to 23 million.

DOH Secretary Francisco Duque III yesterday announced a mass drug administration campaign to combat the infection in 39 provinces where it is endemic.

The drug, a combination of diethylcarbamazine citrate and albendazole, was donated by giant pharmaceutical company Glaxo Smith Kline. Amado Tadena, the company's managing director, said GSK had so far donated 60 million tablets.

Symptoms

The DOH said lymphatic filariasis, like dengue fever, is transmitted through mosquito bites and can affect all members of the population.

Symptoms include fever, cough, chills, wheezing, pain and swelling in any of these parts: arms, breasts, scrotum, penis, vulva, or legs.

"The problem of filariasis in the country calls for a multisectoral approach with active participation of other government agencies, the business sector, and civil society," Duque said in a press conference.

"We can end the cycle of human suffering and declare the Philippines filariasis-free only if we partner together to finally eliminate it as a public health threat."

Deadline 2020

He said the goal was to wipe out the disease by 2020, the deadline set by the international community.

Areas where the infection is endemic are Marinduque, Mindoro Oriental and Occidental, Palawan, Romblon, Albay, Camarines Norte and Sur, Catanduanes, Masbate, Sorsogon, Biliran, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Western Samar, and Northern and Southern Leyte.

The disease is also present in Negros Oriental, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Bukidnon, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley, Saranggani, South Cotobato, North Cotobato, Sultan Kudarat, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Sulu, Basilan and Maguindanao.

New Caledonia president says sorry for 'attacks' on RP workers

By Nikko Dizon

NEW CALEDONIA'S PRESIDENT HAS sent the Philippine government her regrets and embarrassment for the protest actions and "xenophobic comments" recently made by "union extremists" against Filipino workers in the Pacific territory.

In her letter, President Marie-Noelle Themereau stressed the importance of Filipino workers in the building of the $2-billion nickel and cobalt processing plant in New Caledonia.

"I feel that it is necessary to assure that this movement only concerns a minority group of extremists. Our Territory (New Caledonia) is ashamed of the xenophobic comments that were heard in Noumea's streets over the last few days and I can assure you that they do not reflect the attitude of the immense majority of New Caledonia's inhabitants," Themereau said.

Manila appeared to have been satisfied with Themereau's letter. Philippine Consul General Maria Theresa Lazaro described the note as "apologetic and assuring in tone."

"I wish to reiterate how very satisfied we are (of the Filipino) nationals. Without them, it would not be possible to build this refinery," Themereau added.

The plant is managed by the Goro Nickel Co. and the Nickel Company of New Caledonia (INCO).

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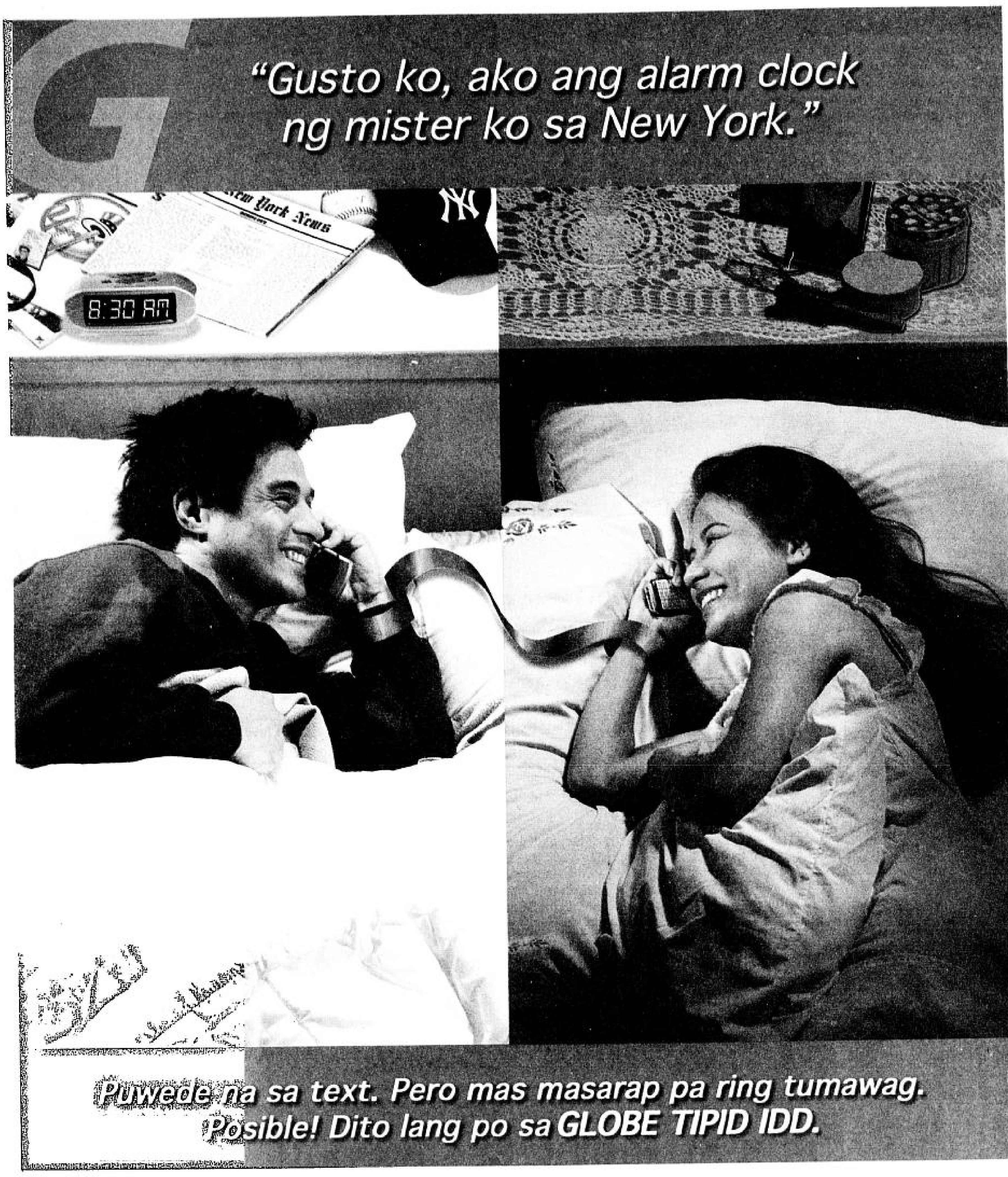
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Moms in hospital had infection—DOH

But Rizal facility officials could face probe for negligence on tots' deaths

EARLY MORNING SALE
A man buys a toy for his son before the start of the morning prayers held at the Luneta Grandstand in Rizal Park yesterday. Muslims in the country today are celebrating Eid'l Fitr which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.
REM ZAMORA

By Christian V. Esguerra

NEITHER TYPHOON "MILENYO" nor the government-run Rizal Medical Center (RMC) in Pasig City were responsible for the death of seven babies due to neonatal sepsis on Oct. 4.

But based on the findings of a joint medical team which had been tasked to investigate the deaths, cases of the blood bacterial infection were common in the hospital.

"All of these strongly point to some degree of negligence," Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said in a press conference yesterday.

According to the joint findings, the infant deaths on Oct. 4 resulted from the "outbreak of highly fatal, early onset newborn sepsis."

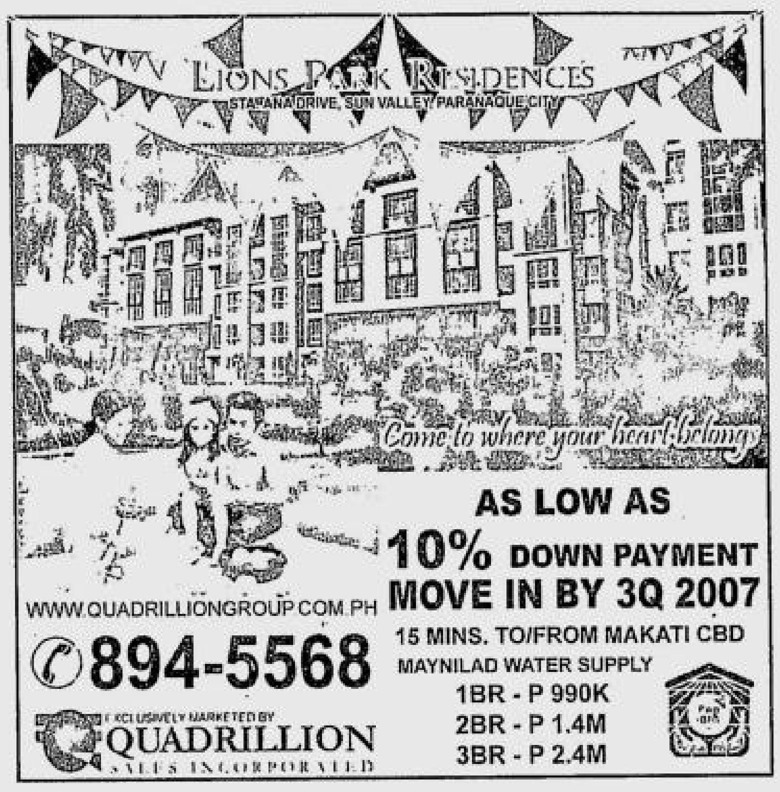
The stage of the infection, meaning it was acquired within six days from birth, indicated that "mother-to-child transmission had occurred even before delivery."

Had it been "later onset sepsis" or acquired within seven to 30 days from birth, the hospital factor would have been considered in the equation, according to Dr. Enrique Tayag, National Epidemiology Center (NEC) chief.

"But since the deaths were a case of early onset sepsis, they could not have been hospital-acquired—the infection was really from the mothers," he told the INQUIRER.

From January to Oct. 15, the infection killed as many as 69 babies in RMC, up from 45 during the same period last year, according-

MOMS/ A18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Pacquiao wins this bout outside boxing ring

By DJ Yap

GOOD NEWS FOR BOXING HERO Manny Pacquiao, but bad news for his rumored girlfriend and their alleged 2-year-old son.

The Quezon City prosecutor's office has junked for lack of evidence the criminal complaint filed by Joanna Rose Bacosa against the boxer, accusing him of failing to provide financial support to their rumored love child.

In a five-page resolution, assistant city prosecutor Maria Gracia Casaclang said there was lack of probable cause to indict Pacquiao since Bacosa had presented insufficient proof that the boxer was indeed the father of her child.

"For one to claim that her child was deliberately deprived of financial support … it is necessary first to prove that the child is entitled to support from his putative father," she said.

The resolution was dated May 2, but it was approved by the city prosecutor and made official only yesterday.

Bacosa filed the complaint in February after Pacquiao allegedly stopped giving financial support to their alleged son.

In her complaint, she accused the boxer of violating the law protecting women and children from violence, or Republic Act 9262, by threatening to have their son kidnapped.

According to Bacosa, she met the boxer in March 2003 while working as a "spotter" and waitress at a billiard hall. Bacosa claimed that she became Pacquiao's girlfriend and gave birth to their son on Jan. 2, 2004.

Bacosa said Pacquiao sent her certain amounts, ranging from P300,000 to just P3,000, when she was still pregnant but the money stopped coming after she gave birth.

At one point, the boxer threatened to kidnap the boy when he learned of her intention to sue him for child support, Bacosa said.

In his counteraffidavit, Pacquiao denied Bacosa's allegations but neither confirmed nor denied that they had a sexual relationship.

In her resolution, Casaclang said a baptismal certificate, one of the evidence submitted by Bacosa stating that Pacquiao was the child's father, did not resolve the issue of paternity, since it only showed that the child was baptized on that date.

Pictures of Pacquiao with Bacosa and the boy were also insufficient to prove that he was the father, she added.

"Said pictures only proved that complainant and her child posed with respondent and had their picture taken together," Casaclang added.

During the preliminary investigation, Bacosa's camp offered to subject Pacquiao's alleged son to a DNA test, provided that the boxer also undergo testing.

Pacquiao, however, declined.

PCU prexy won't quit, denies loan accusation

By Tina G. Santos

THE PRESIDENT OF PHILIPPINE Christian University (PCU) yesterday said he is not resigning despite protests over his alleged incompetence and involvement in corruption cases.

"I'm not resigning because I have a commitment to put the school in order. I will stay in my position," Dr. Oscar Suarez told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Last week, faculty members and staffers of PCU staged a walkout to voice out their displeasure over Suarez's management style and his involvement in the supposedly illegal disbursement of university funds.

Suarez, who is serving his second five-year term as president of the PCU campuses on Taft Avenue and Dasmarinas, Cavite, said the protests against him may have something to do with the rallyists' demand for a salary increase.

"The administration at this point is deferring salary increases to make sure that PCU can meet all financial obligations in the years to come. It's a pending matter, but it doesn't mean that we do not intend to do that. We just do not want to rush because there are a number of things we have to consider," he said.

Suarez also denied an allegation that he had made an unauthorized loan of P32 million "for the university's developmental projects" in 2004, using PCU's trust fund as collateral.

He claimed that the loan was authorized, explaining that in 2003, the PCU Board of Trustees had authorized school officials to put the university's funds in high-yield investment portfolios.

Suarez also denied claims that he diverted the P32 million to Terra Nova Trading, a company then registered in the name of his wife, Marlene.

The transaction, his critics stressed, "clearly showed a conflict of interest."

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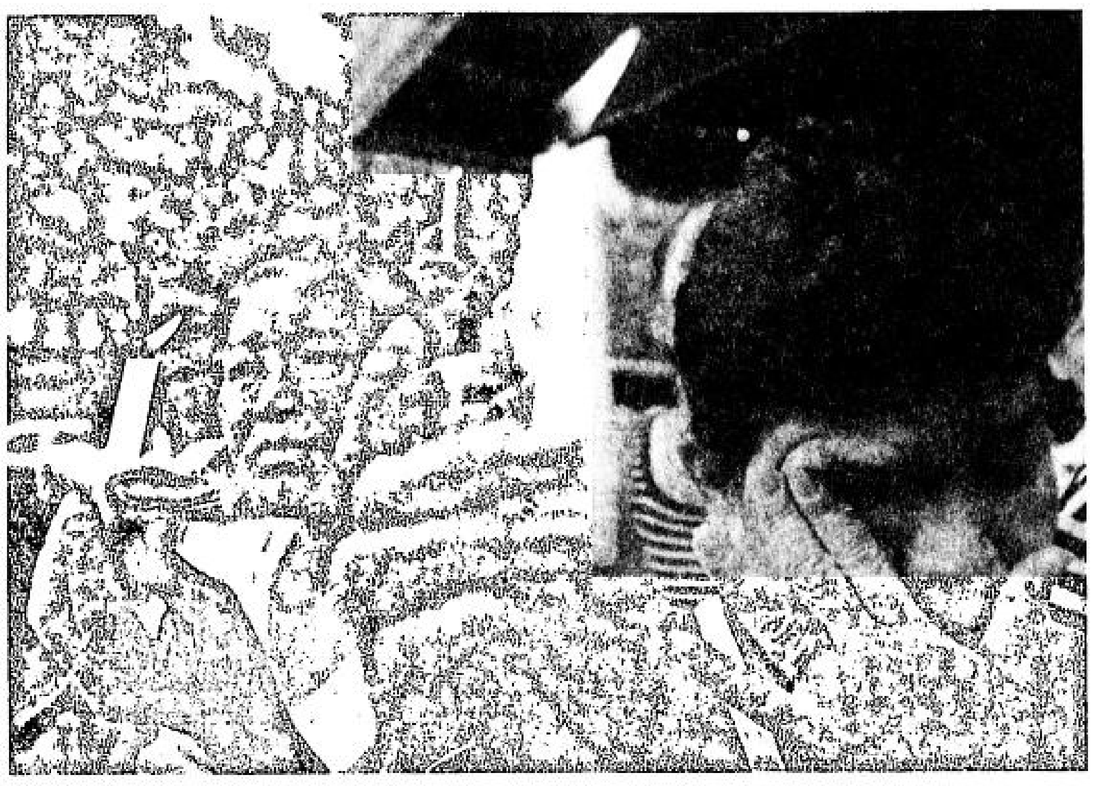
‘Wowowee’ victims to file suit vs ABS-CBN

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.



MONTHS have passed but relatives of those killed in the "Wowowee" stampede said they have yet to get over their loss. In a meeting yesterday, they said they are planning to file a class suit against ABS-CBN top official Gabby Lopez.

RAFFY LERMA

THE RELATIVES OF VICTIMS OF THE "Wowowee" stampede last February at the Philsports Arena (formerly Ultra) plan to file a class suit against TV network ABS-CBN and its chief executive officer Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III.

"There is now probable cause (for the case)," Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption founding chair Dante Jimenez said, citing the Department of Justice decision to file reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and physical injuries charges against show organizers.

"The lawyers of VACC will now proceed with the completion of a class suit that we will file against ABS-CBN," said Jimenez, whose group is helping the victims.

Jimenez led about 50 survivors as well as relatives and friends of some of those who were killed during the stampede in a short thanksgiving prayer yesterday morning.

They gathered at the same gate where 71 persons, mostly old women, were pinned to death during the first anniversary celebration of noontime show "Wowowee." Sheets of paper were hung at the gate, saying "Justis (Justice) for Ultra Stampede Victims."

Many of those who showed up said they used to watch the noontime show religiously.

"I don't watch it now. I would just remember everything that happened," 63-year-old Estrellita Udarve, who was with her mother Virginia Javierto and sister Josephine during the stampede, said. Udarve survived but her mother and sister were killed in the stampede.

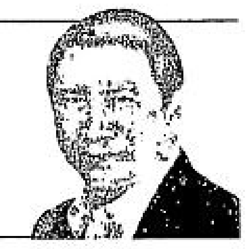
"How can they enjoy the show when many of us are still suffering?" asked Marichu Albalate. The variety show went back on air about a month after the tragedy. She added that her mother Digna can no longer stand on her own after she sustained injuries during the stampede. "We have been going in and out of the hospital and we are using our own money. This has been very hard for us," she said.

In a statement faxed to the INQUIRER, Maloli Espinosa, the network's vice president for government, corporate affairs and public relations, said "it sympathizes with the victims and continues to do all it can to help them through the 71 Dreams Foundation, set up to address the needs of families with legitimate concerns."

Lotharios at the Court of Appeals?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



HERE'S A TIDBIT I GOT FROM AN insider at the Court of Appeals:

One of the court's division clerks of court (there are 17 of them), allegedly had an affair with a stenographer. Both are married.

The good-looking clerk of court wanted to end the relationship because, according to my source, *"natauhan na siya"* (he came to his senses). The stenographer is a plain Jane. In retaliation, the stenographer confessed to her husband, an immigration agent, about the liaison.

The husband, a gun tucked in his waist, rushed to the office of the clerk of court to confront the guy who made a cuckold of him. Fortunately, somebody tipped off the CA clerk who left his office before his ex-lover's husband arrived.

A CA justice advised the Romeo to file for early retirement to escape from an administrative case. But the advice was not without any vested interest. The same CA justice allegedly recommended his son to replace the retired lothario.

The incident has become hush-hush, as if nothing happened. The stenographer was asked to resign. The justices didn't want the scandal to reach the media as the CA, according to my source, is allegedly a Peyton Place, with many *"aswang"* (lotharios who prey on married women) at the appellate court.

For that matter, affairs between married men and women are common in many government offices. That's the reason the antisexual harassment law was passed.

* * *

Speaking of *aswang* (the real meaning), the Catholic Church in Capiz is a killjoy. It's trying to prevent the holding of an *aswang* festival in the province.

An *aswang* is a mythical creature that supposedly preys on the fetus of pregnant women. The two-day festival, to be held Friday and Saturday, will feature trade and job fairs, handicraft exposition, and symposia on the mysticism, culture and history of the *aswang* folklore.

Capiz is known for its *aswang*. The festival, meant to make fun of the folklore, is aimed at drawing local tourists to the province.

NBI employees call off protest vs new official

By Margaux C. Ortiz

EMPLOYEES WHO WERE PLANNING TO hold a silent protest against the appointment of former Manila police chief Pedro Bulaong as assistant director of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) have scrapped their plan after the agency's top official called for unity and harmony yesterday.

In a statement distributed to media, the employees, who were not identified, said they called off the scheduled peaceful assembly beside the NBI marker "to give way to the healing process and amity at the institution."

They warned, however, that while they had decided to heed the call of NBI Director Nestor Mantaring for unity, they would continue to fight for the bureau's pride, dignity and honor.

Before Bulaong's appointment to the post, some employees had pushed for the appointment of an insider.

In a previous statement, some NBI personnel had stressed that Bulaong's appointment was a "big blow to the NBI's pride and image as we campaign for the professionalization and institutionalization of our career officials."

Moms . . .

From page A17

ing to the NEC and the five-person independent probe team.

All in all, the hospital encountered 127 cases this year compared to only 83 from January to October last year.

Duque said the Department of Health's legal office was now conducting a deeper investigation of RMC facilities and procedures for the possible filing of administrative charges against its officials.

The DOH executive committee was also set to decide whether or not to extend the leave of absence of RMC officials, or move them to another institution.

"The increase in incidence and mortality rate of newborn sepsis at RMC this year compared to last year is alarming and should have alerted hospital officials to impose corrective actions, even if the outbreak was not hospital-acquired," Duque said.

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UPMG

A shorter path to US citizenship, but not for all

BEVERLY LINDSAY, A Jamaican-born practical nurse who has made her home in New York for 26 years, filed for citizenship in June with the help of her union, and prepared for a long wait. After all, as recently as a year ago, the US government acknowledged a huge backlog in such applications, and estimated that processing typically took almost a year and a half in New York—triple the wait in San Antonio or Phoenix.

But a mere three months and 10 days after Lindsay applied, she was sworn in as a citizen. "I'm proud, and I'm happy I'm going to vote in November," said Lindsay, 49.

Her success, however, underscores the frustration of Sophia McIntosh, another New Yorker from Jamaica who applied for citizenship through the same health-care workers union program three years ago. Not only is she still waiting, but her case is also now among at least 960,000 immigrant applications pending nationwide that federal officials have simply stopped counting as part of their backlog—a backlog they had pledged to eliminate by this month.

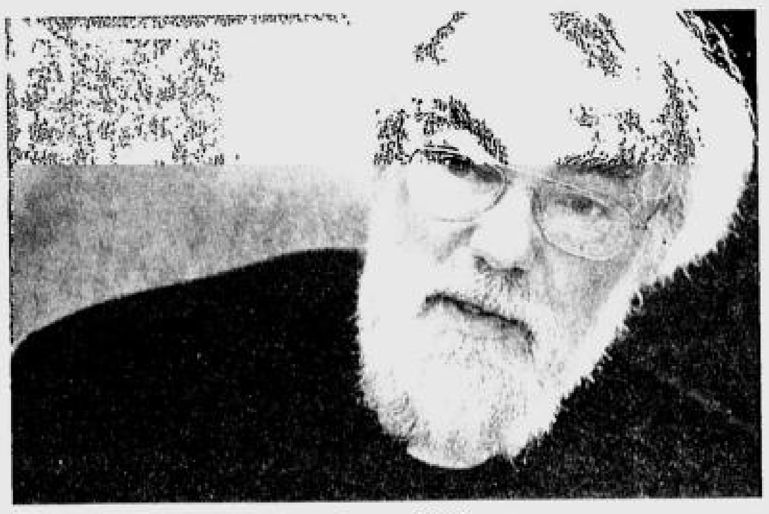
"It's not fair," said McIntosh, 34, a nursing assistant and mother of two, who has been a legal resident of the United States since 1992. "I did all the right things. I want to be able to have a voice in this country."

Until recently, the glut of pending cases was so large that President Bush's vow in 2001 to cut the standard wait to six months or less nationwide seemed unreachable. Now immigration officials say they have more than met that goal, shrinking the average wait to five months for a citizenship decision.

But the numbers are not quite as rosy as they seem. To accomplish their mission, officials at the US Citizenship and Immigration Services explain, they identified and stopped counting thousands of backlogged cases that they now define as outside the agency's control, mostly those delayed by unexplained lags in standard security clearances by the FBI.

The result is a two-tier system. More applicants than ever are receiving a decision in record time. But others are still falling into the system's black holes.

While praising the agency's improvements, immigrant advocates contend that officials have manipulated the figures to declare victory and made it harder to seek redress. *NYT*



ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury Rowan Williams AP

China rulers embracing religion—Anglican leader

BEIJING—CHINA'S RULERS ARE now beginning to embrace religion in efforts to build a fairer society but the persecution of religious groups remains a worry, the head of the world's Anglican Church said Monday.

Wrapping up a rare two-week visit, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams said China was in the middle of a "watershed moment" with many people looking to religion amid huge economic and social changes.

Williams said he noted increasing recognition within the officially atheist Chinese government that religions can have a positive impact in a society where many have been left behind in the country's speedy economic progress.

"It's clear that the government recognizes that there is no way forward on this without the full cooperation of religious bodies," he told reporters in Beijing.

"The church is a vital partner. The church needs to be there alongside other organs of the developing civil society, raising questions and encouraging debates."

Williams, the leader of 70 millions Anglicans worldwide, is the most senior Church of England prelate to visit China in more than a decade, following in the footsteps of predecessors Robert Runcie in 1983 and George Carey in 1983.

In contrast, Beijing and the Vatican, which represents more than a billion Roman Catholics worldwide, have yet to establish diplomatic ties. No pope has ever visited China.

Williams said that decades of persecution of religious groups that were not sanctioned by the government remained a serious concern.

"There is a record over the last 20 to 30 years of harassment of religious minorities, with which we're unhappy, and it's recognized as a problem and embarrassment by many people in high positions," he said.

Fearful of any challenge to their rule, China's Communist rulers maintain strict control over religious affairs and require all faith communities to register and carry out activities in accordance with government regulations. They count about 16 million members.

International rights groups often cite harassment by authorities of those wishing to worship outside state control in what are called "underground" or "house" churches. *AFP*

Divided Hungary marks 50th year of uprising

BUDAPEST—DOZENS OF world leaders were set to join Hungarians on Monday in marking the 50th anniversary of the anti-Soviet uprising, as bitter domestic politics threatened to overshadow the celebrations.

The main right-wing opposition party Fidesz was expected to boycott commemorations attended by the governing Socialist party, the successor to the Communist party after Hungary's transition to democracy in 1989.

The move torpedoed efforts to use the half-century anniversary to unite the country in the spirit of the 1956 uprising, when a peaceful student protest spontaneously turned into a mass upheaval against Stalinist oppression.

But among those planning to be on hand to remember the uprising were 18 European presidents and two prime ministers, the kings of Spain and Norway, and the heads of the European Commission and the Nato.

The anti-communist Fidesz was to hold a separate commemoration in the afternoon, despite appeals by Hungarian President Laszlo Solyom on the eve of the anniversary to celebrate together in the spirit of the uprising.

But celebrations were already marred earlier Sunday, when at a state awards ceremony in parliament several recipients, including some veterans of the uprising, refused to shake hands with Socialist Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany.

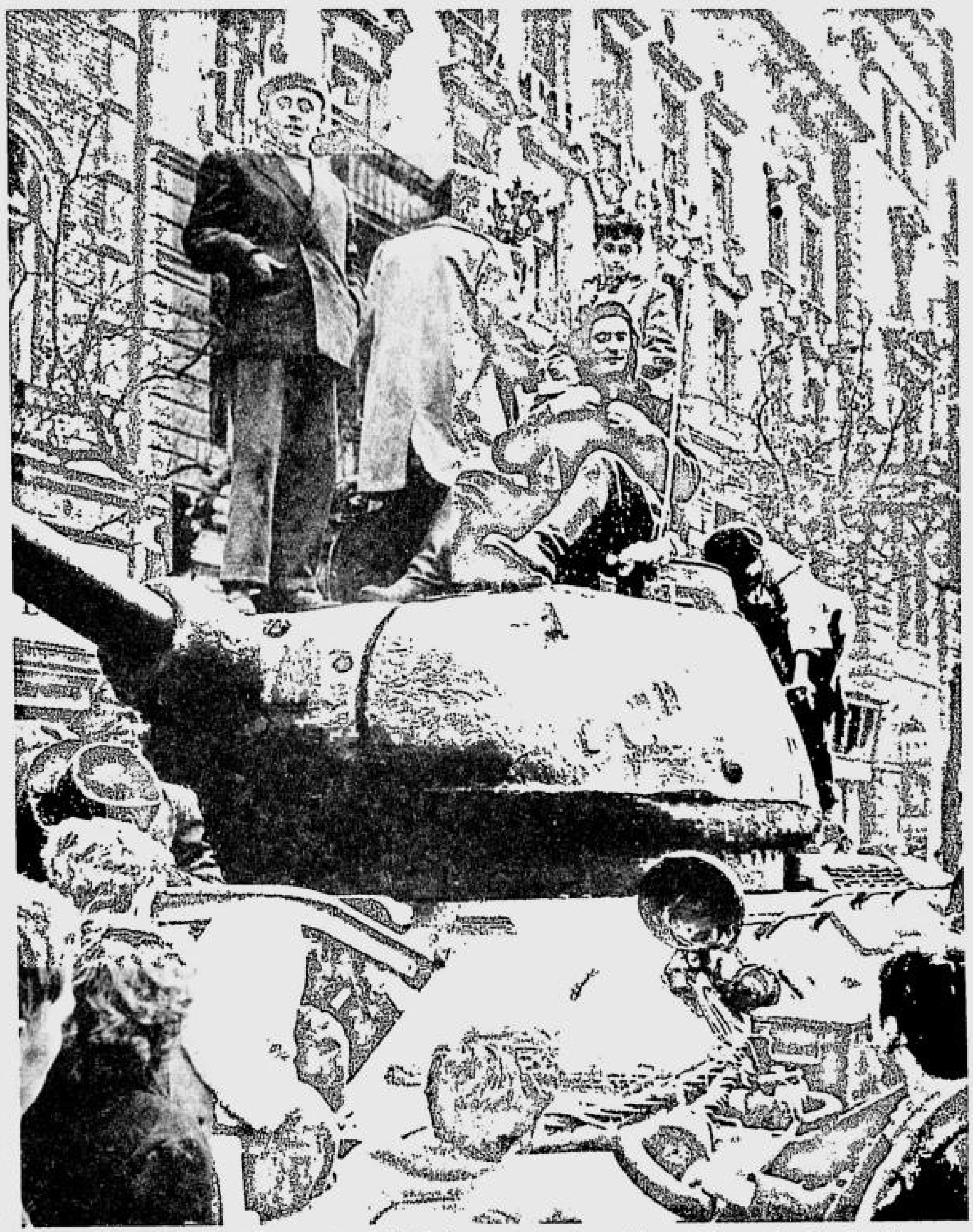
It was a symbolic jab at Gyurcsany, who although born five years after the uprising, was the leader of the communist youth organization in the 1980s.

Hungary's uprising erupted on Oct. 23, 1956, and was crushed by Soviet tanks on November 4, sealing the country's fate as a satellite state of Moscow until the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989.

It all started as a peaceful student protest 50 years ago, and ended up uniting intellectuals, students, workers and farmers in demanding freedom after years of Stalinist oppression.

The protests turned into armed resistance across Hungary, with youngsters, dubbed freedom fighters, grabbing guns and Molotov cocktails in fierce street battles against Soviet tanks sent to put down the protests.

The crackdown resulted in the death of 2,800 Hungarians. A further 12,000 were wounded and 200,000 fled to the West. *AFP*



FREEDOM fighters stand on top of a tank in Budapest at the time of the uprising against the Soviet-supported Hungarian communist regime in 1956. REUTERS

82 deaths a day: No solution in sight for US gun violence

By Bernd Debusmann

WASHINGTON—IT'S AN American way of death. More than 30,000 people die from gunshot wounds every year, through murder, suicide and accidents.

That is an average of 82 a day, and prospects for reducing the toll are dim.

The debate between gun-control advocates and the pro-gun lobby was reignited briefly this month by four school shootings between Sept. 26 and Oct. 9.

In one, a man carrying a pistol, a shotgun and 600 rounds of ammunition shot 10 girls execution-style at an Amish school in Pennsylvania, killing five of them, and then killed himself.

In another, a 13-year-old took an AK-47 assault rifle to his school in Missouri, pointed it at administrators and other students and fired it into a ceiling.

At a hastily arranged White House Conference on School Safety on Oct. 10, panelists covered topics ranging from metal detectors and school bullies to the value of religious beliefs and good communication between parents and schools.

But the word "gun" was not mentioned until a plucky teenager pointed out to a panel moderated by Attorney General Alberto Gonzales that the common factor was easy access to high-powered firearms. President George W. Bush and his wife Laura Bush attended separate parts of the conference but avoided mention of guns.

"The Bush administration is in complete denial regarding the catalytic role that guns play in school violence," said Kristen Rand of the Violence Policy Center, which, like other gun-control advocates, was not invited to the conference.

"How is it even possible to have a discussion about preventing school shootings without talking about guns?"

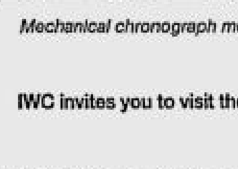
Justice department figures put the number of guns in private hands at more than 200 million—more than any other country—and swelling by several million every year.

The annual US production of pistols, revolvers, rifles and shotguns for the domestic civilian market has been running at between 2.6 million and more than three million for the past seven years, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, Tobacco and Explosives.

"The US level of lethal violence is far out of line with those of other industrialized nations," said David Hemenway, director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center. "The fact that most of our lethal violence involves firearms lends credence to the hypothesis that the prevalence of guns is a prime reason."

That hypothesis, widely accepted in much of the rest of the world, is hotly contested by American advocates of unfettered access to guns, led by the National Rifle Association, who say that the second amendment to the Constitution gives all law-abiding citizens the right to bear arms. Reuters

When in the cockpit, please keep an eye on the other instruments, too.



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Thailand won't lift martial law just yet

BANGKOK, THAILAND—THAILAND'S MILITARY-installed government said Monday it will maintain martial law because supporters of ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra still intend to create political chaos.

"As long as the situation remains not calm, martial law cannot be lifted," Defense Minister Gen. Boonrawd Somtat told reporters. "If there are no political undercurrents, the opportunity to lift martial law will come faster."

Boonrawd said the coup leaders had talked to supporters of Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai party in a bid to stop any moves against the interim government.

The military staged a bloodless coup on Sept. 19 when Thaksin was in New York on an official trip and appointed an interim government led by Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont, a former army commander. He has promised to step down after a new constitution is drafted and a general election held in October next year.

The international community has called on the Thai government to lift martial law as soon as possible. Among other restrictions on civil liberties, the law bars public gatherings of more than five people. The government has eased the restriction by allowing public gatherings in indoor areas.

Surayud has traveled to north and northeast Thailand, where Thaksin's support was strong among the rural poor. He hoped to appease pro-Thaksin groups and stop them from organizing any action against the government.

Noppadol Patthama, Thaksin's legal adviser, told a news conference Sunday that Thaksin was not involved in any movement against the current government.

"Anything that causes divisiveness in Thailand, the former prime minister doesn't want it," he said.

Noppadol said that after martial law is lifted, he hoped Thaksin "will have an opportunity to return to the country as other people do."

Thaksin, a telecom tycoon turned politician, portrayed himself as a champion of the poor, and his policies such as low-cost health care and funds for village development earned him massive popularity in rural areas.

His party won landslide victories in the 2001 and 2005 elections. However, he was increasingly opposed by the urban elite and middle class which accused him of corruption and abuse of power. *AP*

Sudan expels top UN envoy

KHARTOUM—KHARTOUM GAVE the top UN representative in Sudan three days to leave the country Sunday, marking a new low in relations soured by the row over the world body's proposed role in war-torn Darfur.

Outspoken UN envoy Jan Pronk has prompted the ire of Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir's regime by criticizing its handling of the crisis in Darfur and pushing for the deployment of UN peacekeepers there.

The row erupted last week and the government had so far stopped short of demanding his departure but the military had on Friday made it clear that the 66-year-old Dutch diplomat was persona non grata in Sudan.

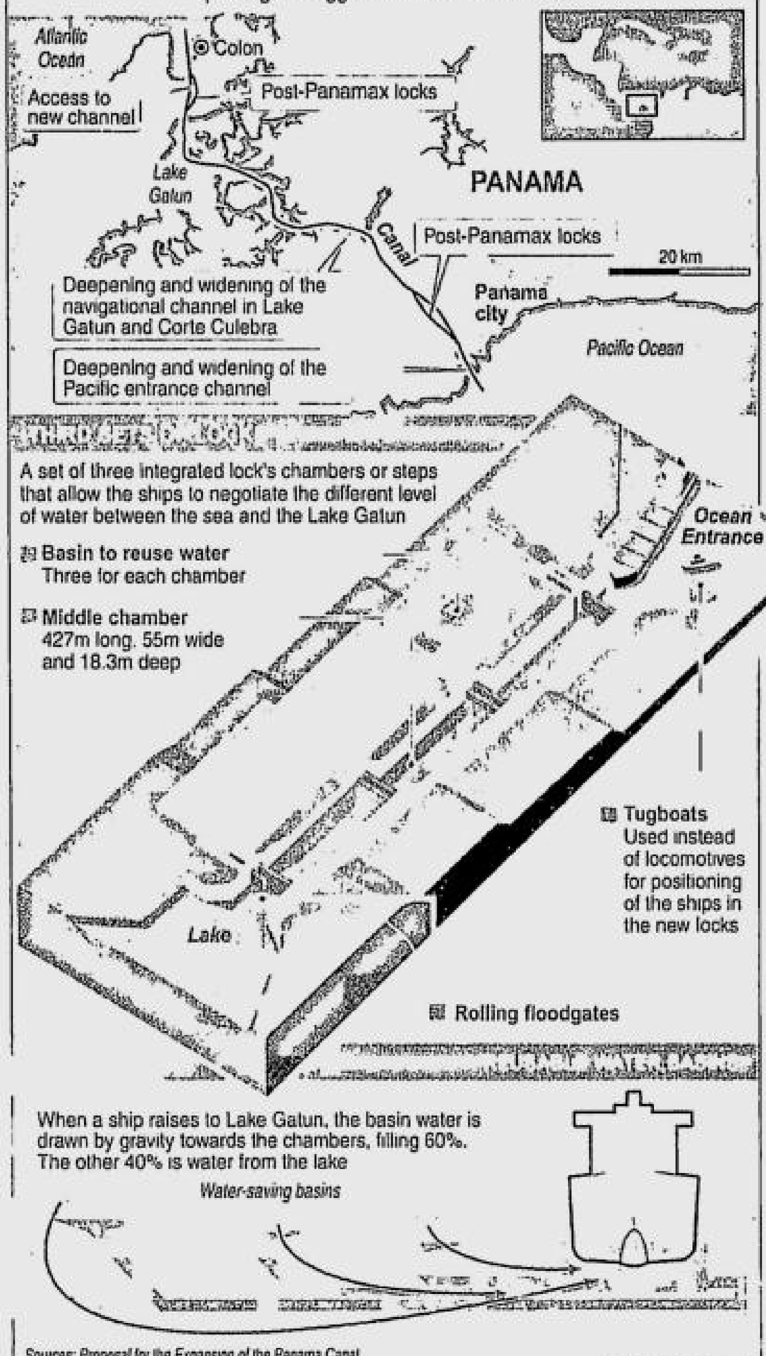
The Army said in a statement it considered Pronk's presence and movements in Sudan "a military threat that adversely affects the performance of the armed forces and (he) has therefore become a persona non grata."

It complained that the envoy had traveled around Sudan without government permission and dealt with rebel groups fighting the military in the western region of Darfur. *AFP*

EXPANSION OF THE PANAMA CANAL

The Panama Canal, one of the engineering wonders of the world, will receive the biggest facelift in its 92-year history if Panamanians approve a plan to widen and deepen the waterway at a referendum on Sunday

The project consists of adding a third lane to two existing lock lanes, and to construct two lock facilities, one at each end in order to allow the passage of bigger "Post-Panamax" boats


Atlantic Ocean
Colon
Access to new channel
Post-Panamax locks
Lake Galun
PANAMA
Canal
Post-Panamax locks
20 km
Deepening and widening of the navigational channel in Lake Gatun and Corte Culebra
Panama city
Pacific Ocean
Deepening and widening of the Pacific entrance channel
A set of three integrated lock's chambers or steps that allow the ships to negotiate the different level of water between the sea and the Lake Gatun
Basin to reuse water Three for each chamber
Middle chamber 427m long, 55m wide and 18.3m deep
Ocean Entrance
Tugboats Used instead of locomotives for positioning of the ships in the new locks
Lake
Rolling floodgates
When a ship raises to Lake Gatun, the basin water is drawn by gravity towards the chambers, filling 60%. The other 40% is water from the lake
Water-saving basins

Souces: Proposal for the Expansion of the Panama Canal, Panama Canal Authority

Estudio R. Carrora para REUTERS

Voters OK Panama Canal widening

PANAMA CITY—VOTERS APproved Sunday a $5.25-billion plan to widen the historic Panama Canal, allowing the world's biggest ships passage between the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

"Today we have become the masters of our own destiny," President Martin Torrijos said. "Today, we have laid the foundation for a better country."

With 95 percent of votes counted, the election tribunal said 78 percent of voters had approved the project.

Torrijos and the Panama Canal Authority, the government agency that has run the waterway since it was handed over to Panama by the United States in 1999, insisted that not widening the 92-year-old waterway would leave it obsolete after 2012.

About 80 percent of the gross domestic product of Panama, with a population of three million, is linked directly or indirectly to canal activity. The canal's main users are the United States, China and Japan.

Proponents say the canal, through which roughly four percent of world trade passes, badly needs an overhaul to accommodate mega-ships and remain competitive against other maritime routes.

It takes eight to 10 hours to cross the Isthmus of Panama via the 80-km canal. But the actual average time, including the wait, is 26 hours. *AFP*

SKILLING AFP

Disgraced former Enron CEO awaits sentencing

HOUSTON, TEXAS—FORMER Enron chief executive Jeffrey Skilling, who was convicted of massive fraud and conspiracy earlier this year, awaited sentencing here Monday as one of the biggest corporate scandals in US history drew closer to its conclusion.

Skilling will learn his fate from US District Judge Simeon Lake without his codefendant, Enron founder Kenneth Lay, who died of heart failure in July.

Lay's conviction on 10 counts of fraud, conspiracy and banking violations was thrown out on Wednesday because he died before he could appeal the verdict.

Skilling faces a maximum penalty of 185 years in jail after a jury found him guilty in May of 19 counts of conspiracy, fraud and insider trading.

Enron's spectacular collapse in 2001, then the largest corporate bankruptcy in history with more than $40 billion in outstanding debt, rattled energy and stock markets. Thousands lost their jobs and life savings.

"It was a watershed event and watershed case," said David Berg, a trial lawyer and legal analyst in Houston who has followed the proceedings closely. "I'd rank it up there with Watergate in the way it shook public confidence."

While a raft of other business scandals followed, like Tyco, ImClone, Aldephia and Worldcom, it was Enron that became synonymous with corporate malfeasance.

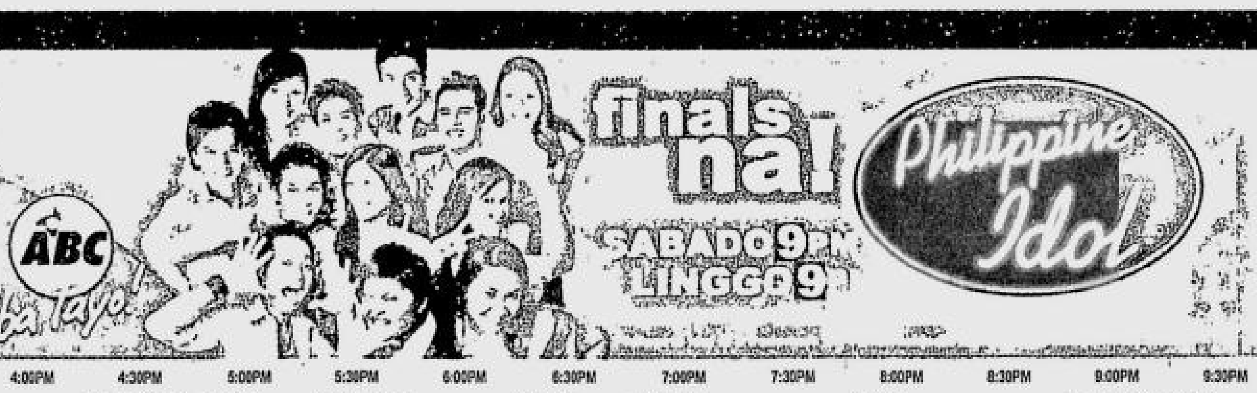
And Skilling and Lay personified greed for hiding company losses and hyping the stock's value while selling their own shares on the sly.

Legislators invoked their names to justify passage of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, which aims to improve corporate governance by making executives and boards of public companies personally responsible for accounting statements. *AFP*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Tuesday, October 24, 2006



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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Mon Cole Knight	Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	TNA Wrestling		Big News	Ult Guinness World Records		Todo Max		Philippine Idol	Sentro	ALi		Araw-Araw Premyo Sa Ribbo	Letty La Mas Fea
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema		My Girl	Pasion de Amor	Yakitate! Japan	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Maging Sino Ka Man	Crazy For You		Pinoy Dream Academy	Bandila	Correspondents	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		House (Season II)		Worst Case Scenario		The Ult Fighter (Season II)		Beastmaster (Season I)		Max Exposure (Season II)		Ripley's Believe It or Not		30 Seconds To Fame	AXN Extreme Macau	Las Vegas (Season 2)		Numb3rs (Season 2)	
bTV				NBA Home Video		2006 Champs League PCU vs AMA - G3				2006 Champs League UE vs. EAC - G4				NBA Access	NBA Europe Live 2006 Final Four				
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel/ My Gym Partner's A Monkey	Bobobo/ Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Mirumo De Pon	Pokemon: The Johto Journey	The Justirisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One		Anak Ni Janice				Luksong Tinik				Carta Alas		Otso-Otso Pamela-mela Wan				Sa Init ng Apoy			
Cinemax	Evil Has A Face (2:45 PM)			The World Of Suzie Wong				The Shadow (6:15 PM)				Beyond Borders				For Better Or Worse (10:05PM)			Evil Has A Face
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Body Of Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		The Closer		E-Ring		Oz	
Discovery Channel		Tribe		Rides		NILE: The Great Flood		Zero Hour		Tracking Deadly Vipers		Hour Asia		Chinese Whispers		Discovery Atlas			
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unfabulous Bunny	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Emperor's New School	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Wicked Science 2/ Totally Spies	Phil Of The Future	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies/ Proud Family Movie	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Watersports Programming Hot Water		X Games 11 Classic - Skateboard		NFL Yearbook	Motorsport Asia	NFL Football: Giants vs Cowboys						Sportscenter Asia	World Pool League '05 Poland		World Pool League '05 Poland		Sportscenter Asia
ETC	Insider Weekend	Project Runway		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		One Tree Hill 3		The OC Season 3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (Degeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Skating With Celebrities		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Super Saints	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	ABCatholic	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Mirror Of The Soul	Lord, Have Mercy	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Good Code: The Natural Law	Cenacle Of Divine Mercy	Octavia Dies	Web Of Faith	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pantabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Atlantika		Bakekang (8:50 PM)	Love Story In Harvard	Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Just Cause		Judging Amy		Follow The Stars Home			
HBO			The Accidental Tourist				The Forgotten			The River Wild (7:10 PM)				Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!			Nine On Big Screen In Oct	Six Feet Under S5 Time Flies	
Hero TV	Tokyo Underground	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar, A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Gunlock	Full Metal Panic Fumoffu	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	BBDaman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	Cinderella Boy	Tokyo Underground	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Serbis On The Go	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arnis		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arnis	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Experience		Heat		X-Men Evolution	Justice League	Bottomline		Mad TV		Just For Laughs	Jamie Kennedy Experiment	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Food 911	Boy Meets Grill	Intimate Portrait		E! News Weekend		Martha		Whose Line Is It Anyway?		Napa Style	Sheila Bridges Designer Living
MTV Philippines		Sessions Faspitch	VH1 Fabulous Life Celeb Couples		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	MTV Hits			Get Spotted	5 Things About Faspitch	TRL		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	MTV Arena	Sessions Faspitch	VH1 Fabulous Life: Kept Men	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYXellaneous	Radio MYX	MYX News	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic		Nat Geographic Specials		Hidden Worlds		Predators At War		Top 5		Nat Geographic Specials		Wow!		Martial Arts Week		Hollywood Science		Hunter Hunted	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alas.	Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Talakayan Sa Isyung Pulis		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K			
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Tamang Daan		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	INC Chronicles (English)	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Ang Pagbubunyag		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone/Nick's Fright Fest	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants/Eid Special: Dora The Explorer Fairy Tale Adventure/ Fop Fairy Idol	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Danny Phantom	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh/Eid Special: Fop Fairy Idol/Nick's Fright Fest	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Bilang Na Oras Mo				Coolam Kulam				[illegible] Ang Batang Rebelde				Ayaw Kong Maging Kerida				Paradise Hell
Qtv	Starry Night	Samurai X	Battle B-Daman	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Winter Sonata	Irene	Emperor Of The Sea	Takeshi's Castle		Extreme Make-over: Home Edn		News On Q	Sana'y Muling Makapiling		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Savages	Jake In Progress	Project Runway		Australia's Next Top Model		Good Girls Don't	Sex & the City	Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Treat		
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Sony Music Video		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports								Billiards. US 9 Ball		Boxing, Jaca Vs Marquez				ITZ		Sportsdesk		Rassworld	
Star Movies	Guess Who?			Operation Dumbo Drop				The Patriot (6:15 PM)						Boogeyman			Urban Legends: Final Cut		
Star World	Becker	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		The Apprentice		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	One Tree Hill		Desperate Housewives		Kevin Hill		Kevin Hill	
Studio 23		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	Gilmore Girls	Smallville (8:15 PM)		24		News Central	Oprah (10:45PM)		MYXlog

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Rogers keys Tigers victory/A23

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

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Schumacher crosses finish line/A23

229 RP bets eye 5 Asiad golds

By June Navarro
and Marc Anthony Reyes

AT THE VERY LEAST, FIVE gold medals.

This was the bold forecast of Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez after the Asiad Task Force finalized yesterday the list of 229 athletes in 31 sports for the 15th Asian Games set Dec. 1-15 in Doha, Qatar

"It's very hard to make a prediction, but based on out analysis in billiards, bowling and combat sports, we can get more than five," Ramirez, also the Asiad Chef de Mission, told the INQUIRER.

"We can't really be so sure but that is very probable."

The traditional top gold prospects are boxing, wushu, taekwondo, billiards and bowling. The PSC chief said he also expects big performances from equestrian, diving and even lawn tennis.

"There are many promising names in the delegation and this is a good sign for us because these athletes have already proven themselves in several international tournaments against the best in the world," said Ramirez.

Completing the 351-strong RP contingent *(see final lineup below)* are 94 team officials, 10 medical personnel, 15 administrative staff and three Chef de Mission officers.

Deputy Chef de Mission Richie Garcia will lead the advance party of Team Philippines on Nov. 16 along with administrative officials Nestor Ilagan and Moying Martelino and the secretariat's Carlos Mari Roque.

15TH ASIAN GAMES
DOHA 2006

Thirty-one athletes from baseball, rowing, table tennis and badminton will comprise the first wave of athletes who will depart on Nov. 26.

Ramirez will lead the main batch of 99 athletes from aquatics, beach volleyball, boxing, chess, gymnastics, judo, sepak takraw, shooting, soft tennis and weightlifting. They will leave two days later.

The rest of the athletes will be leaving on a staggered basis due to limited space at the Asian Games Village, with the karate bets the last to plane in on Dec. 8.

Ramirez picked world champions Wang Wili and Rene Catalan to deliver in wushu, multiple Southeast Asian Games gold winner Shiela Mae Perez in diving, SEAG veterans Gretchen Malalad and Marna Pabillore in karatedo and Harry Tañamor in boxing.

Despite the absence of Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Ramirez said billiards is a bright gold prospect, along with bowling.

The two sports along with equestrian delivered three golds for the country in the last Asiad in Busan, South Korea.

Paeng Nepomuceno will defend the men's doubles gold in bowling with a new partner after old teammate RJ Bautista failed to make it to the squad.

Cue artists Antonio Gabica and Leonardo Andam will take the place of Nikoy Lining and Bustamante in 9-ball doubles, where the Filipinos are the defending champions.

Toni Leviste and Danielle Cojuangco will try to duplicate the equestrian gold won by Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski four years ago.

Other medal hopefuls are Jasmine Figueroa (archery), Thsomlee Go and Toni Rivero (taekwondo), Dianne Pascual and Heidi Ilustre (beach volleyball), Migue Molinal and JB Walsh (swimming), Jethro Dionisio and Jamie Recio (shooting), John Baylon (judo), Ramon Lanza (equestrian) and Cecil Mamiit and Erik Taino (tennis).

On to Asian Games: Members of Team Philippines

THE FINAL LINEUP OF ATHLETES and officials and their schedule of departure:

November 26

BASEBALL: E. Binarao, R. Empacis, F. Recto, R. Angeles, R. Baclay, R. Batuto, E. Del Socorro, D. Dela Calzada, W. Hidalgo, Jr., C. Labrador, J. Orillana, J. Pinero, J. Ponce, F. Rances, Jr., R. Roja, V. Roxas, N. Tator, A. Velasquez, H. Navasero (team manager), E. Baradas, E. Delos Reyes, R. Jimenez (coaches).

ROWING: J. Rodriguez, B. Tolentino, Jr., E. Maerina (coach)

TABLE TENNIS: E. Ebuen, R. Gonzales, H. Ortalla (coach)

BADMINTON: Kennevic Asuncion , Kennie Asuncion, A. De Leon (coach).

ANDAM

November 28

AQUATICS (SWIMMING): R. P. Arabejo, G. Bordado, E. L. Dee, J. Walsh, D. Coakley, D. Cordero, Ma. G. Gandionco, M. Molina, E. Totten, K. Uy, M. Joseph (team manager), C. Brosas and W. Arzaga (coaches).

BEACH VOLLEYBALL: R. Velayo, P. Tupaz, D. Pascua, H. Ilustre, R. Anzuela (manager), R. Camangian (coach).

BOXING: H. Tanamor, V. Payla, J. Tipon, A. Marcial, G. Basadre, D. Boholst, W. Lopez, F. Joven, R. Roque (team manager), P. Gaspi, N. Velasco, R. Chavez (coaches).

CHESS: D. Laylo, R. Dableo, J. Docena, W. Abalos (team manager), O. Dimakiling (coach).

GYMNASTICS (ARTISTIC): R. Ramirez, S. Ty (coach), D. Saguisag (team manager).

JUDO: T. Hoshina, J. Baylon, S. Schwarzkoff IV, G. Ramirez, E. G. Liwanen, N. Quillotes, B. Reynes (team manager), A. Pedroso (coach).

SEPAK TAKRAW: J. Aglobo, D. Alipan, H. Castanares, M. Suico, I. Apdon, D. Autor, J. R. Babilonia, V. Tanchanco (team manager), C. Apdon, J. Mora and R. Calderon (coaches).

SHOOTING: J. Dionisio, E. Ang, J. Recio, N. Padilla, P. B. Rosario, D. A. Hizon, P. Bernardo, C. Gonzales, G. J. Corral, A. M. Gana, V. Garcia, S. Aguado, J. Sun and J. Chua (coaches), D. Padilla (team manager), M. Dasalla (armourer).

SOFT TENNIS: W. De Leon, Jr., Enriquez Michael John, Silvoza II Orlando, Noguit Samuel, Dante Belen, Escala Divina Gracia, Bantay Petrona, Tamayo, Jr. Antonio and Custodio Agapito (coaches).

WEIGHTLIFTING: R. Briones, H. Diaz, G. Colonia (coach).

November 29

BOWLING: M. Tee, T. C. Ongpauco, C. C. King, E. Rivera, C. J. Suarez, R. Nepomuceno, J. Canare, I. Garcia-Benitez, Ma. L. Del Rosario, M. D. Posadas, L. Clutario, Ma. C. Yap, M. Amano (team manager), C. De Leon and D. Tonolete (coaches).

CYCLING (ROAD): S. Barnachea, W. Davadilla, A. Quirimit, E. Obosa, J. Ricafort, B. Bitbit, F. Feliciano, D. Valdez (mechanic), J. Lorenzo (team manager), D. Villanueva (coach).

ROWING: A. Amposta, N. Cordova, J. Bagasbas, B. Ramos, Jr. (team manager), N. Jasmin (coach).

November 30

CUE SPORTS: J. De Luna, A. Gabica, L. Andam, F. Tauro, Jr., A. Punzalan, R. Grandea, I. Ranola, Ma. A. R. Basas, J. Nidea (coach), E. Asonto and R. Ancaja (coaches).

TENNIS: C. Mamiit, F. Taino, P. J. Tierro, J. Arcilla, C. M. Arevalo, D. Dy, L. Mendoza and J. Jose (coaches), M. Misa (team manager).

December 1

SAILING: Paz German, Moreno Reneric, Balladares Ridgely, Chavez Rommel, Fidel Maria and Paz Richard (coaches).

December 3

TAEKWONDO: E. J. Mendoza, D. Geisler, A. Briones, M. Rivero, Jr., T. Go, J. P. Lizardo, M. A. Rivero, Ma. C. Roxas, K. E. Alora, L. L. Catalan, K. E. Alora, V. Domingo, S. Fernandez and R. Cruz (coaches), R. Samson and M. S. Ycasas (assistant coaches).

ATHLETICS: E. Buenavista, H. Dagmil, A. Ferrera, D. Fresnido, R. Herrera, J. F. Nierras, Jr., E. Candelario, J. Delicano, M. Manipol, L. E. Gabito, M. Torres, B. Salvador, (team manager), L. Artiaga and I. Del Prador (coaches).

TRIATHLON: A. Macasieb, E. Quilala, L. Langit, A. Araullo, O. Rodriguez and R. Gonzales (coaches).

RIVERO

NEPOMUCENO

December 5

BODYBUILDING: D. Takiban, R. Posas, L. Lim (team manager), E. Macorol Jr. (coach).

GOLF: G. X. Bondoc, M. Dumandan, M. Bibat, J. Bayron, D. M. De Villa, A. Dottie, A. I. Tanpinco, J. M. Agojo, R. Sabularse (team manager), A. Lopez and C. Guerrero (coaches).

WRESTLING: Jimmy Angana, M. Angana, Jerry Angana, M. G. Valda, M. Baletin, G. Silverio, Ma. C. Villanueva, V. Piccio III (team manager), L. Enkhbayar (coach).

ARCHERY: R. A. Cabral, M. Cordero, C. Cubilla, P. M. Dela Cruz, J. Figueroa, M. Javier, K. A. Santos, K. G. Yasi, C. W. Lim and P. Cortez (coaches). L. Brawner (team manager).

CYCLING (TRACK): A. Benosa, J. P. Morales, E. Paragoso, A. Catalan, P. Curtan, Jr., A. Marcelo, P. Manapul, C. Jazul, C. Querimit (coach).

FENCING: G. C. Nocom, E. Daliva, E. Segui, R. Canlas, Jr., R. Endriano, A. Victorino, Jr., A. Vizcayno, W. Vizcayno, Jr., W. Mendoza, J. Franquelli, M. J. Angeles, V. T. Nuestro, (coaches) R. Fuenzalida, V. Garcia and R. Gomez, L. Gonzalez (manager).

December 7

AQUATICS: J. Asok, N. Carog, Z. Domenios, C. Domenios, R. Fabriga, S. M. Perez, A. Thomson (team manager), D. Zhang (coach).

CANOE-KAYAK: M. Amposta, D. Funelas, J. O. Victorio, N. Cajes, L. Escollante (coach), S. C. Tat (team manager).

EQUESTRIAN: J. R. Lanza, M. A. Leviste, D. Cojuangco, P. C. Zobel, C. Coscolluela and M. Belofsky (team managers), F. R. Guinato, R. Brown and J. Kumps (coaches), R. Trinidad, S. Cabungcal and A. D'Abadia (grooms).

SQUASH: R. A. Garcia, R. Espinola, C. Paganpan (coach).

WUSHU: W. Ang, P. Quiya, K. Lim, R. Catalan, R. Nganhayna, M. Eddiva, E. Folayang, J. Hung, C. Cuan and E. Tanteko (team managers), B. Yuding and Y. Fuliu (coaches).

December 8

KARATE: B. Chu, I. Toribio, N. Pacalso, J. Perania, N. Espinosal, G. Malalad, M. Soriano, Ma: M. Pabillore, E. Ponce (manager), D. Lay, Jr. and Guiseppe (coaches).

BASADRE: Over Finn

Tipon, Basadre outclass foes

TWO FILIPINO BOXERS GEARING UP for the Doha Asian Games made a triumphant start in the Tammer Cup International Boxing Championships recently in Tampere, Finland.

Manila Southeast Asian Games gold medalists bantamweight Joan Tipon toyed with Israeli Piter Moyshenzon, 22-7, while lightweight Genebert Basadre beat local bet Joonas Koivarunta , 22-7.

Manny Lopez, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, said the event featuring boxers from Europe, Asia and Africa will be used as the final phase of the Nationals' preparations for the Asiad.

Two more Pinoy boxers—welterweight Francis Joven and featherweight Anthony Marcial—were scheduled to climb the ring against Foster Marcelin Nkodo of Cameroon and Ali Hallab of France, respectively.

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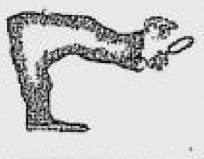

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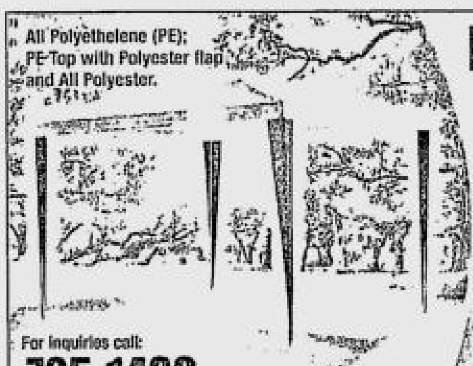

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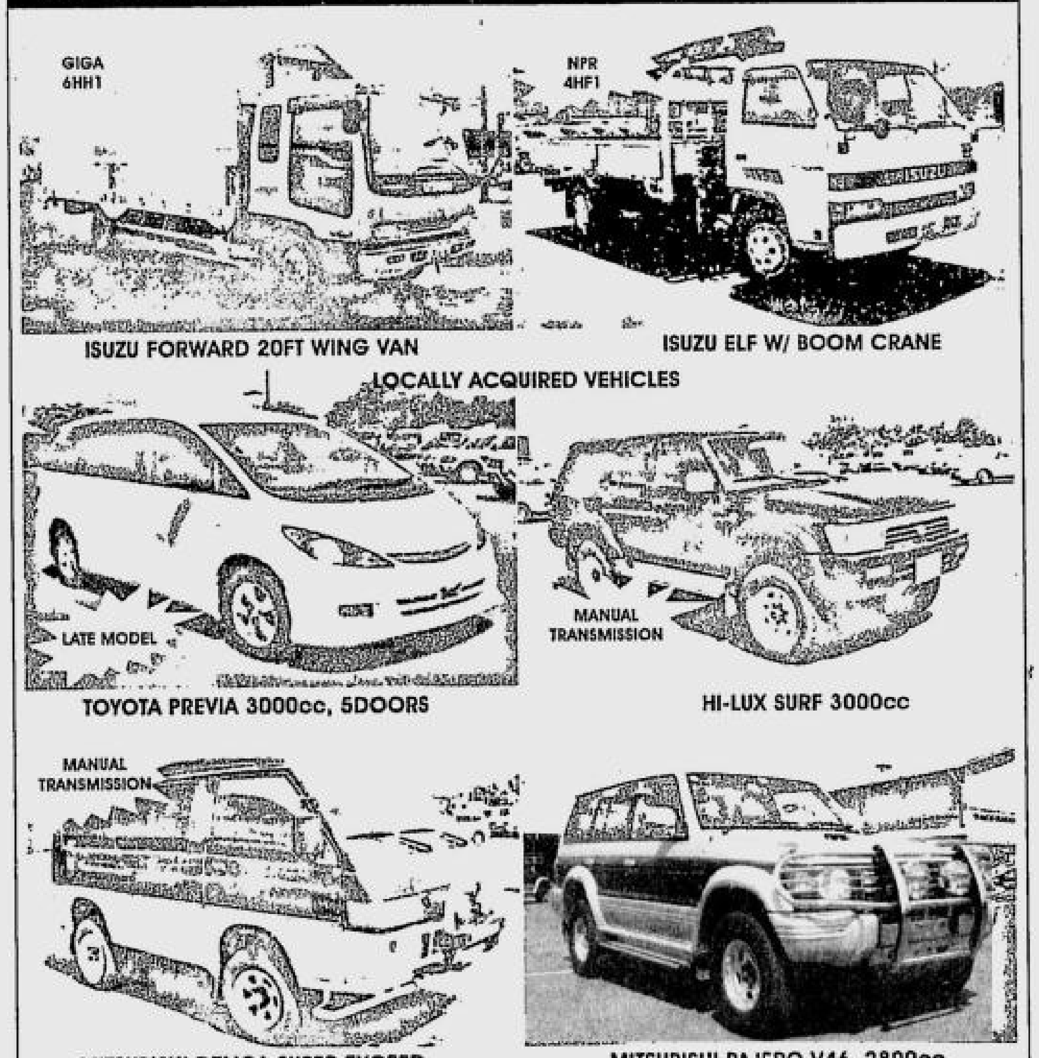

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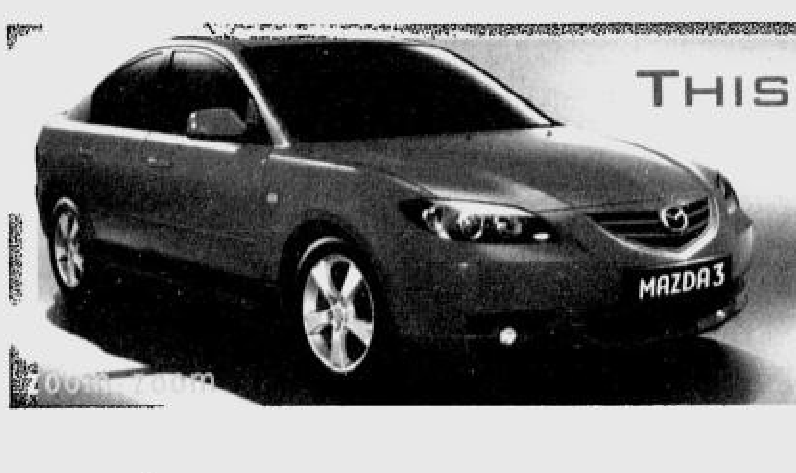

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Warriors rise from ruins of UAAP campaign

PUMAREN: Special

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR THE UNIVERSITY of the East Red Warriors to get their focus back.

Just a month after their UAAP debacle, the Warriors claimed the Collegiate Champions League crown, ruling a tournament that featured the country's top 16 varsity teams.

"It's hard to motivate any team that's hurting, but the boys showed they can bounce back," said UE coach Dindo Pumaren. "I'm glad they remained tough even if we didn't make it to the UAAP Finals. I think the win showed that the boys can overcome challenges."

Indeed, the Warriors have every reason to be proud. Seeded fifth in the tournament, the Warriors humbled a formidable varsity squad still basking from its championship glory.

The San Beda Red Lions, boosted by 6-foot-8 Nigerian Sam Ekwe, were favored to clinch their second title in two months.

But Lions coach Koy Banal commended the solid basketball program of the Warriors, who also won three pre-season titles early this year.

In the winner-take-all Finals, the Warriors found salvation from beyond the arc as Most Valuable Player James Martinez buried triples in crucial stretches in the second half for a 66-59 triumph last Sunday.

"Winning the title boosted the team's confidence," said Pumaren. "The fact that the tournament had all the best collegiate teams in the country today made the win very special."

The Warriors, who finished third in the UAAP won by the Santo Tomas Tigers, also ousted Universities and Colleges Athletic Association titlist Emilio Aguinaldo Generals, NCAA runner-up Philippine Christian Dolphins and semifinalist Mapua Cardinals.

"We didn't reach our goal in the UAAP, but the boys felt that people still believe in their talent," said Pumaren.

Vilog rules triathlon, regains RP pool berth

By Jasmine W. Payo

A YEAR OF UNCERTAINTY CAME TO AN END for former national champion George Vilog.

The veteran triathlete, suspended from the national team last year as a disciplinary measure, reclaimed his old slot after bagging the overall championship in the 2006 Speedo National Age Group Triathlon Series.

Vilog amassed 380 points after ruling three previous legs and finishing second in the final race last Sunday at the Narra Park in Ayala Alabang Village.

A berth in the national pool was part of the incentive for the top finisher of the six-leg series.

"My purpose is to get back in the national team," said Vilog, who dominated the races held in Davao City in Davao, Los Baños in Laguna and Lakeshore in Mexico, Pampanga. "The suspension was a misunderstanding. I'm making sure it won't happen again."

Mark Candelaria, another former champion, finished second overall.

Candelaria, fully recovered from an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury, collected 260 points after topping the Alabang leg and placing second in the Los Baños and Lakeshore races.

"I've been coaching in duathlon and I just wanted to improve my time, to continue training," said the 35-year-old Candelaria.

A national titlist from 2000 to 2001, Candelaria ruled the Alabang race—a 950-meter swim, 28-kilometer bike, 7-km run event—in 1 hour 29 minutes and 45 seconds.

Vilog, twice saddled by a flat tire in the bike leg, came in a couple of minutes later at 1:31:46.

"The next SEA Games is my target," said Vilog, a triathlon champion from 2002 to 2004.

In the women's division, 13-year-old Patricia Baybayan bagged the overall title with 205 points.

Baybayan, a second year high school student from Colegio San Agustin Biñan, earned a slot in the junior training pool after finishing third in Alabang (2:16:13) and Los Baños and fourth in Lakeshore.

UNIVERSITY GAMES

Manila bets show might on all fronts

By Cedelf P. Tupas, *Inquirer Visayas*

BACOLOD CITY—WITH ITS HOPES FOR A FIFTH CONSECUTIVE UAAP CROWN dashed because of suspension, La Salle's women's football team has brought its act to another virtual playground—the University Games.

The Lady Archers launched their bid for an unprecedented eighth straight UniGames crown in style, overpowering Xavier University of Cagayan de Oro, 12-0, yesterday.

Hat-tricks from Fiona Mackenzie and Samantha Bermudez highlighted the flying start by La Salle, which is grouped with Ateneo, a 6-1 winner over Silliman University.

La Salle, suspended for the 2006-07 season by the UAAP after the school fielded ineligible players in men's basketball, is also seeing action in volleyball and women's basketball here.

The La Salle cagebelles proved too strong for St. Louis University, 98-48, on a day when other UAAP teams sent a strong message to the rest of the field with dominating performances.

The Far Eastern University Lady Tamaraws, who narrowly lost the UAAP crown to the Santo Tomas Tigresses, mauled Silliman University, 73-25, while the Lady Eagles whipped University of San Agustin, 70-47.

In women's volleyball, Santo Tomas, powered by RP team standout Mary Jane Balse and crowd-favorite Denise Tan, cruised to an easy 25-11, 25-19, 25-21 victory over Foundation University while La Salle beat University of Cebu, 25-11, 25-10, 25-17.

Host University of St. La Salle drubbed Silliman University, 25-7, 25-11, 25-12.

In a rare meeting between the two teams in men's volleyball, College of St. Benilde overpowered University of the Philippines, 25-19, 25-20, 33-31, while Santo Tomas walloped Ateneo de Davao, 25-16, 25-8, 25-22.

Men's basketball action saw four-time UniGames champion St. Francis of Assisi Doves score a resounding 89-70 triumph over Iloilo's University of San Agustin.

USLS tripped Mindanao State University, 89-77; Colegio de La Purisima Concepcion thumped SLU, 83-71, and University of Iloilo trounced Holy Angel University.

Action in badminton, lawn tennis and table tennis gets going today while, the medal-rich athletics and swimming competitions start Wednesday and Thursday, respectively. *With a report from Christian Irl Tan*

ATENEO'S Cassy Tioseco, Hila Indigne and Kariz Javier (from left) gang up on a University of San Agustin cagebelle in first-half action. ANDY ALVAREZ, INQUIRER VISAYAS

Montaña rips Bacchus for 1st win

DAVAO CITY—MONTAÑA PAWNSHOP-Davao finally barged into the win column of the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament Sunday night at the expense of slumping Bacchus/Harbour Centre-San Juan, 110-92, at the packed Almendras gym here.

Ryan Abanes led six Montaña players in double figures to offset Ryan Buenafe's career-high 27 points for Bacchus/Harbour, which fell to 2-3.

The lopsided triumph ended Montana's three-game skid in the tourney.

After a close second half, Abanes and Arianne Daja sparked a torrid fourth quarter as businessman Armando Quibod's Jewelers ripped the game apart and took the fight out of the visiting team of San Juan mayor JV Ejercito and businessman Mikee Romero.

Abanes topscored with 18 points and got solid support from Daja and Jonjon Gonzaga, who tallied 15 points each.

With Buenafe shooting from all angles and former UST Tiger Danny Pribhdas scoring consistently, San Juan kept the game close in the first half.

The loss was the third straight for Bacchus/Harbour.

The scores:

MONTAÑA 110—Abanes 18, Daja 15, Gonzaga 15, Dawal 14, Ayson 13, Panerio 11, Lamocha 8, Atablanco 5, Quibod 5, Pachuela 3, Jatico 2, Lopez 1.

BACCHUS 92—Buenafe 27, Pribhdas 16, Sta. Cruz 14, Aquino 12, Coyukang 11, Kalaw 5, Masbang 2, Retaga 2, Reroma 2, Willams 1, Alminario 0.

Quarters: 29-28, 60-55, 82-72, 110-92

Athletics' Go cries foul

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

"THIS IS VERY UNFAIR TO ME. ALL THESE are lies."

Thus said Go Teng Kok, the controversial president of the national athletics association, in denying reports about his alleged involvement in moves to reinstate the Basketball Association of the Philippines in the Philippine Olympic Committee.

"I was the first to ask for the expulsion of the BAP last year, so it wouldn't look good if I seek its reinstatement," added Go, whose street fighter's sense of survival has kept him alive and kicking in the highly politicized world of sports. He admitted, though, that he could be seen almost daily with former BAP secretary general Graham Lim, who is an old friend, but he stressed that it is an entirely different matter.

"Graham is a longtime buddy," Go told this writer, "*kaibigan ko siya*."

A victim of POC politics, Go feels some of his associates and supposed supporters in the local Olympic body, including some members of the media, have been harshly unfair to him, even treating him with distrust, especially when POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco formed recently a fact-finding panel to investigate his reported tie-up with BAP officials who want to regain membership in the local Olympic family.

"There are other things to investigate. Why me?" he asked. "Up to now I have been serving as special assistant to the POC president. If I have anything against the policies of Mr. Cojuangco I will have to resign first. It's as simple as that."

Go felt there was no need for Cojuangco to form a fact-finding panel since all that the latter had to do was call him first and get his side. But regardless of the findings of the panel, Go said he would cut his ties with the POC.

Aside from being president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association and special assistant to Cojuangco, Go also holds various other positions in the local Olympic body, namely, head of the POC ways and means committee, chair of the rules and sports committee of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games and task force head of this year's Philippine delegation to the Doha Asian Games.

Vainglorious in nature, Go is alternately combative and charmingly deprecating. He has a thirst for helping his friends, many of whom are officials of various national sports associations. This is one compelling reason why he is one of the most sought after and feared officials in the POC.

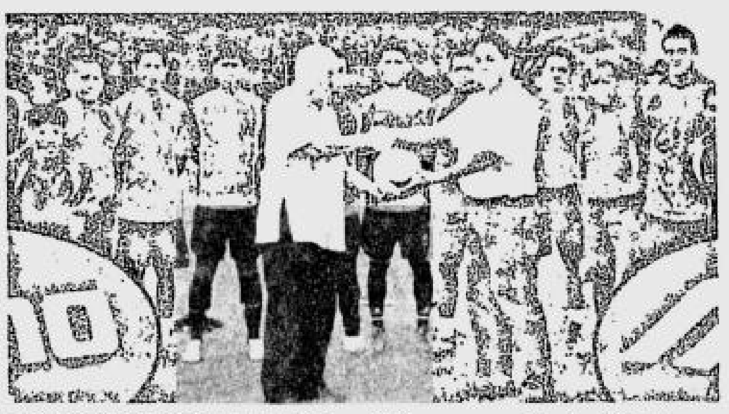
Still, POC spokesperson Joey Romasanta virtually ignored Go, saying the Olympic body would rather focus on the country's preparations for the Doha Games than pay attention to the tirades hurled by the track and field czar.

After the POC expelled the BAP in June last year, Cojuangco said he would rather resign as POC head than have the BAP reinstated. As a result of the POC decision, the Fiba (international basketball federation) suspended the Philippines from taking part in all its tournaments.

* * *

BRIEFLY NOTED. Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao tried everything to keep sweet-shooting Lordy Tugade from leaving, but the team felt Lordy would benefit more in trading him to San Miguel Beer. "Lordy could get a longer playing time at San Miguel which we couldn't give under our system," said team manager Tony Chua. In exchange for Lordy, Red Bull acquired Migs Noble and Mark Kong and San Miguel's 2007 second-round draft pick and 2008 first-round pick. Tugade is ranked No. 4 in this year's MVP balloting. Another marquee player who gained from the trade was Rommel Adducul, who was first acquired by Red Bull from Ginebra and then released to San Miguel. Adducul is expected to play a more prominent role with the Beermen as Danny Ildefonso is still ailing... Happy birthday to an esteemed friend, Photokina executive Raffy Casyao, who marks another milestone today.

SPORTSWATCH



RP BOOTERS' OUTFITTER: Lovell Gopez, president of Master Sports, distributor of Mizuno in the country, hands over a football to Philippine Football Federation president Johnny Romualdez, symbolic of the company's commitment to support the national team seeing action in the Asean Football Championship-Qualifier Tournament slated Nov. 12-20 in Bacolod City.

Larry's Cup comes off the wraps today

A FIELD OF 256 PLAYERS FROM VARIOUS SECTORS IS VYING IN THE inaugural Larry's Cup charity golf tournament slated today at the west course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. The field will be divided into two groups with the first half teeing off at 6:30 a.m. followed by the other half at 12 noon. A brand-new Toyota Vios is up for grabs at hole No. 3 in the one-day event which has non-profit organizations Lambunao National Foundation Inc. and Ramendo Livelihood and Educational Foundation Inc. as beneficiaries, according to tournament chair Mark Mendoza. The Lambunao (Iloilo) and Ramendo (Batangas) foundations provide avenues for education opportunities to deserving Filipino youth from the marginalized sector and financial assistance to first-time, small scale entrepreneurs, Mendoza said. Two Yamaha golf carts are also at stake for aces on holes No. 11 and 14 and P100,000 on hole No. 8.

Clean-Up derby kicks off at Roligon

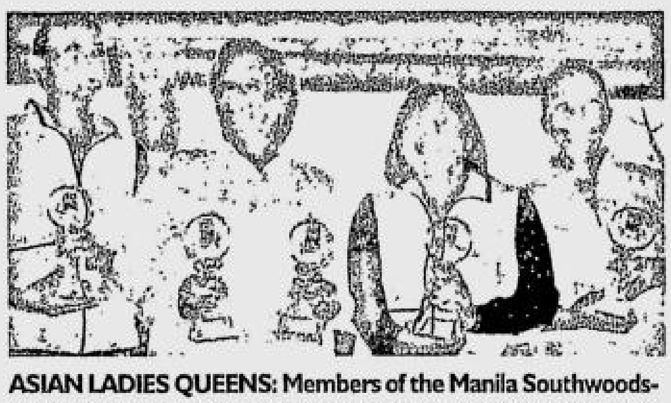
MORE THAN 120 FIGHTS ARE ON TAP IN THE SHOWDOWN OF PROVINcial derby champions in the Clean-Up 4-Stag Derby starting at 2 p.m. today at Roligon Mega Cockpit. The winners will recieve a guaranteed prize of P400,000, said host Rolly Ligon. Likewise, special prizes for fastest win champions are at stake in the derby sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone. Meanwhile, Ligon welcomed to Roligon last week the 100-plus members of the United Backyard Breeders Association (UBBA). The group will stage on Nov. 6 the UBBA Pangmasa Stagwars 4-Stag derby.

'Labanan' stagfest at Big Dome today

VETERAN COCKERS GO UP AGAINST UPCOMING BREEDERS TODAY IN the elimination round of the "No Entry Fee Labanan" 7-stag derby at the Araneta Coliseum. The first of more than 150 matches in the derby sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 begins at 12 noon. "It's a perfect chance for upcoming breeders to challenge their more popular counterparts and be recognized in the national cockfighting circuit," said event organizer Patrick Antonio. About P1.3 million in prizes will go to the winners. The 4-stag championship round unfolds on Thursday. For inquiries, call 911-2928 or 911-3101.

Gomez stuns GM, shares top spot

FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL MASTER-elect John Paul Gomez downed Romanian Grandmaster Mihai Suba to share the lead with compatriot IM Oliver Dimakiling and 17 others after the second round of the III Calvia Chess Festival late Sunday in Calvia, Mallorca, Spain. Gomez checkmated Suba after 49 moves of a Sicilian Defense-Keres Attack variation. Gomez has 2.0 points with Dimakiling, GM Pons Francisco Vallejo of Spain, GM Kevin Spraggett of Canada, GM Hichem Hamdouchi of Moroccon and 15 others. *Marlon Bernardino*



ASIAN LADIES QUEENS: Members of the Manila Southwoods-Masters team show their trophies after topping Group I of the recent 4th Asian Ladies Team Championship at the Camp John Hay in Baguio City. From left: Sandy Velhagen, Claudine Garcia, Beachie Abiera and Connie Campos. Tagaytay Highlands ruled Group II, while Baguio Country Club dominated Group III.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Red Fancy (6), Summer Rain (2), Isla Clipper (3), Dictionary (4)

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Red Phoenix (1), Court General (7), She Boom (5), Nico's Incharge (3)

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Ingay Ingay (7), Interceptor (5), Isun Mio (1), Audrey's Temper (4)

Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Ginja (3), Jigolo (7), Cuadro de Alas (5), Dulce My Love (2)

Race 5—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Vantage (1), Business Class (7), Rebecca's Magic (4), Striker (3), La Perouse (5), Boss Lady/Golden Connection (10)

Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Mary Jane Bomb (4), Sandok (2), Rho Sig (5), Reign of Fire (6), Valentine Girl (1)

Race 7—(Super6/Qrt/Tri)—Magic Bullet (8), Riah's Bell (7), Noble Principality (5), Vinia's Pride (1), Naman Naman (3), Master Professor (4)

Race 8—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Manila Magic (5), Sweet Alyssa (9), Kim Possible/Batang Westside (3), Victory Ranger (7), Pyramid Relaunch (4)

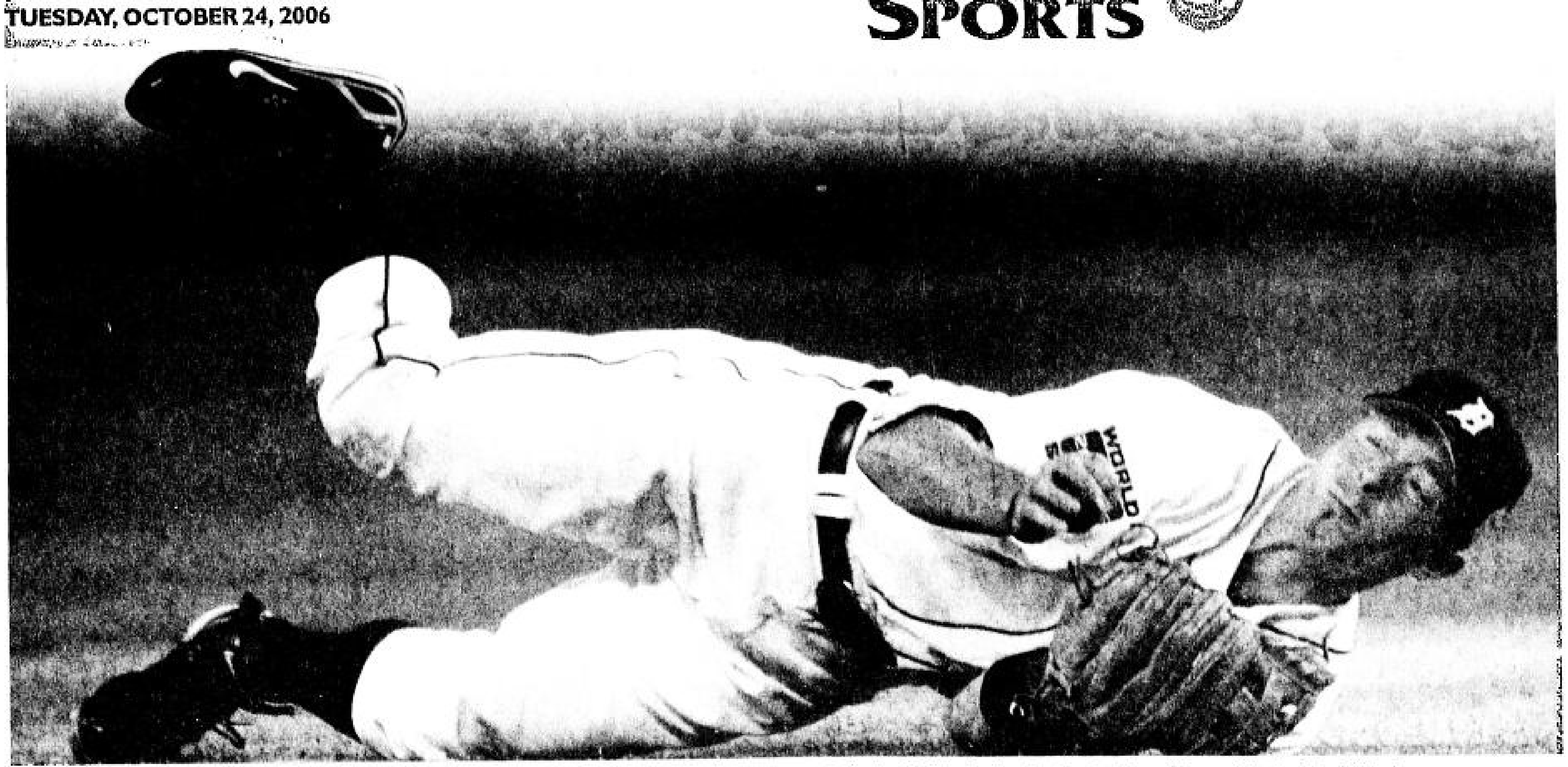
Race 9—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Tiedil Forever/All Class (2), Red Anya (4), More Love (7), Music Quest (6), Heart of the Wind (5)

Race 10—(Qrt/Tri)—Miss Vicky (1) Gonfalon Story (2), Romus (5), Grand Fiesta (4)

Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Strong Boy (6), La Signorina (7), Speed Admiral (2), Amazing Firenze (3)

Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Don Exequiel (5), Stallone (1), Manhattan (3), Air Force One (6), Ocean Deep (2)

Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—King Aljhun (9), Mike's Pride (7), Man of Honor (5), Rock Attack Attack (1), Wings to Fly/Long Hitter (6), Ferman Ikaw Pa Rin (10)



DETROIT Tigers third baseman Brandon Inge dives, but fails to rob St. Louis Cardinals Scott Spiezio of a hit during the first inning of Game 2 in the World Series. REUTERS

Rogers keys Tigers victory

DETROIT, MICHIGAN—KENNY ROGERS SURRENDERED ONLY TWO HITS IN eight shutout innings to become the oldest starting pitcher to win a World Series game in Detroit's 3-1 triumph over St. Louis here Sunday.

The 41-year-old southpaw withstood cold, rain and wind to befuddle Cardinal batters but Detroit nearly wasted his effort before stopping a ninth-inning rally to even Major League Baseball's best-of-seven final at one triumph each.

"It's a great feeling to come out here and do what you are capable of to help this team. This is what it's all about," Rogers said.

Rogers has thrown a combined 23 scoreless innings while allowing only nine hits in three playoff appearances, overwhelming the New York Yankees in round one and Oakland in the American League final before mystifying the Cardinals.

"For some reason he is on a mission. He has been very good for us all year long," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. He's one of those guys that has that extra adrenaline. That has worked for him."

The only longer playoff scoreless streak was by legend Christy Mathewson, who hurled 27 shutout innings in 1905 for the New York Giants.

"I'm no Christy Mathewson that's for sure. I've had scoreless streaks before. I'm glad it's happening for us now. But I will never put myself in that category for sure."

Craig Monroe hit a solo home run in the first inning while Carlos Guillen doubled in one run and scored another after a triple to provide enough runs for the Tigers to win.

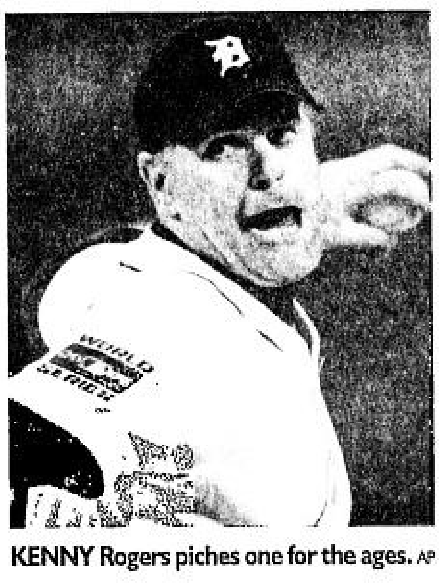
"To watch the way Kenny has gone out this post-season inspires us. He has really been the rock of this team," Monroe said. "To see his emotion when he makes big plays, it makes you want to do the same thing."

Rogers threw 62 strikes in 99 pitches, striking out five while allowing only three walks before departing in the ninth inning for reliever Todd Jones, who nearly squandered all of Rogers' hard work before holding on for the victory.

"I thought we hit the ball better than two hits," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "We should have gotten more with the contact we made but he pitched very well."

Jones was one strike from victory when Scott Rolen singled, advanced on a Jones error and scored on Jim Edmonds' double. Jones hit Preston Wilson with a pitch to load the bases but a Yadier Molina ground out ended the game.

The series shifts to St. Louis for the next three games starting Tuesday. *AFP*



KENNY Rogers piches one for the ages. AP

Complete Schedule on ESPN:

GAME 3—Detroit at St. Louis, Oct. 25, 8 a.m. (replay-5:30 p.m.); **Game 4**—Detroit at St. Louis, Oct. 26, 8 a.m. (replay-5:30 p.m.); **Game 5***—Detroit at St. Louis, Oct. 27, 8 a.m. (replay-5 p.m.); **Game 6***—St. Louis at Detroit, Oct. 29, 8 a.m.(replay-5 p.m.); **Game 7***—St. Louis at Detroit, Oct. 30, 9 a.m. (replay-9:30 p.m.)

*If necessary

Bermas hits target, gets 2 gold medals

REIGNING PALARONG PAMBANSA ARCHERY champion Janet Bermas of Makiling High School lived up to expectations by winning two gold medals and bagging the girls' individual crown in the recent Fita II (25-meter) age group tournament at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

BERMAS

Bermas scored 106 points to beat silver medalist Lourdes May Bellona of MHS and bronze winner Mary Grace Dolfo of Pampanga Agricultural College, who tallied identical 99 points.

Nathan Tolentino of TAC-AC ruled the boys' division with 104 points. Deny Hallaris of PAC-Magalang took the silver while CPG High School's Emmanuel Coducoy got the bronze.

Forty-seven archers from various Metro Manila and Luzon clubs competed in the tourney. The participants were supported by their respective parents, schools and clubs.

Winners in the other categories were:

Novice (girls)—Bianca Gotuaco, first; Nicole Cuerpo, second; and Jamalia Mikhail Inductivo, third.

Novice boys, compound—Joshua Lawrence A. Ramos

Cadet (girls)—Ana Marie Inton, first; Clarisse May Marcos, second; Michelle Tan, third; and Krizelle Panglilinan, fourth.

Cadet (boys)—Elijah Bismark, first; Gabby Moreno, second; Michael Alain Nicolo Garcia Tan, third; and Noel Castaneda, fourth.

Cadet (boys, compound)—Marco Limcaoco.

Junior (girls)—Charisse Villanueva, first; Leina May Bolinas, second; Fatima Figueroa, third; and Kathleen Joy Bartolo, fourth.

Junior (boys)—Gabriel Villalon, first; Giono Quinio, second; Kevin Dizon, third; and Joaquin del Rosario, fourth.

Intermediate (girls)—Kristina Bismark.

Intermediate (boys)—Carlos Iñigo, first; and Jules Ronas, second.

The classification round medalists were Kevin Dizon (gold), Joy Maico (silver) and Juan Ismael Andres (bronze), junior boys; Noel Santos Castañeda (bronze), cadet boys; and Raphael Bueno, high school/college level.

ROGER Federer: I'm the best right now. REUTERS

Federer slips past Sampras with Madrid Masters win

MADRID, SPAIN—ROGER FEDERER CALLED himself the best player in tennis.

Nobody can argue with that.

By winning his first Madrid Masters title and 10th tournament of 2006 on Sunday, Federer is the first player in the Open era to win 10 titles for three straight years.

"Well, I am the best right now," Federer said after beating 10th-seeded Fernando Gonzalez 7-5, 6-1, 6-0. "But in history, I guess we'll never know except if I break all the records there are, but there's still a long way to go."

Federer moved ahead of Pete Sampras with his 12th Masters series title—second only to Andre Agassi's 17.

Federer didn't drop a set in Madrid while winning his 19th straight match and third straight final. This month, Federer won the Japan Open after capturing his third consecutive US Open title in September.

Since the beginning of 2004, Federer has compiled a 237-15 record, with French Open champion Rafael Nadal the only player to have beaten him multiple times in that stretch.

At Madrid, he tied Ivan Lendl's 25-year mark of winning 80-plus matches in back-to-back years. This year, he's reached the final in 14 of the 15 tournaments he entered, winning 10 of them.

Federer will finish the year ranked No. 1 for the third straight year, and his 142 weeks at the top since February 2004 trail only Ivan Lendl (157) and Jimmy Connors (160) since the rankings began in 1973, another record he could surpass in 2007.

His 43rd career title left him 12th in the list of Open era (since 1968) champions, in sight of Thomas Muster (44), Rod Laver (47) and Boris Becker (49). *AP*

Alonso keeps crown 15 minutes into race

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—FERNANDO Alonso was virtually assured of his second Formula One championship barely 15 minutes into the Brazilian Grand Prix.

He didn't know why his team was asking him to turn down the power of his engine so early in Sunday's race.

Then he soon found out. His only rival for the world title, Michael Schumacher, punctured a tire and dropped to last.

Alonso retained the championship when he was second to Felipe Massa in the season finale which also marked the end of Schumacher's mighty career.

"The important thing today was to become champion again for the second time and we did it," Alonso said. "Yes, it has been a fantastic weekend, especially the race."

Schumacher, a seven-time F1 champion, needed to win his final race before retirement to keep alive his remote chance of another title. But the German punctured a tire less than 10 laps in, dropped out of contention, and drove well to salvage fourth.

"I have been told my tire was cut but I didn't feel any contact. The only thing I really felt was my tire was done," Schumacher said.

Alonso heard about it from his team.

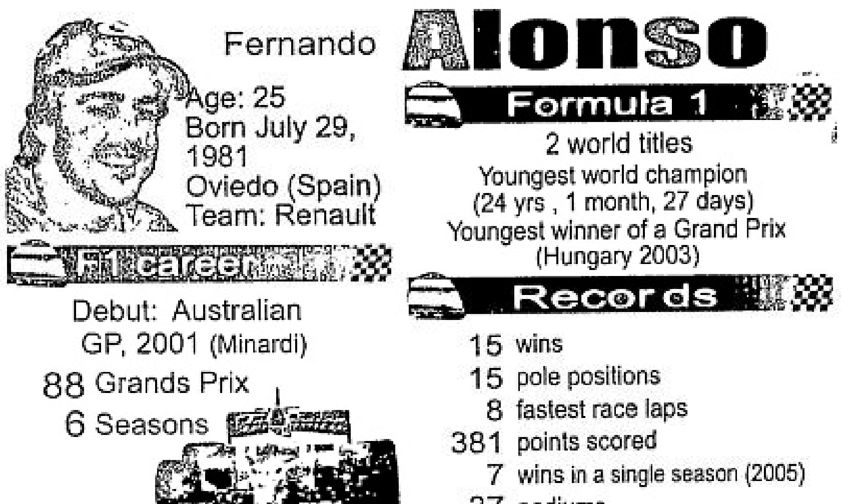
"Well, first of all they told me to drop the revs," he said "Then they said he was back in 19th."

Massa, Schumacher's Ferrari teammate, won the race from the pole before an adoring home crowd at the Interlagos circuit.

His second career victory was also the first by a Brazilian here since Ayrton Senna in 1993. "I think it is a dream come true. I always dream to have this day," Massa said. "And I got it.

Honda's Jenson Button was third.

As soon as Alonso crossed the finish line, the Spaniard thanked his crew over the radio in French (Renault's engines are built in France) and English (the team is based in Britain). He helped Renault also clinch the constructors' title but will race for McLaren next year. *AP*



Fernando **Alonso**

Age: 25
Born July 29, 1981
Oviedo (Spain)
Team: Renault

F1 career

Debut: Australian GP, 2001 (Minardi)
88 Grands Prix
6 Seasons

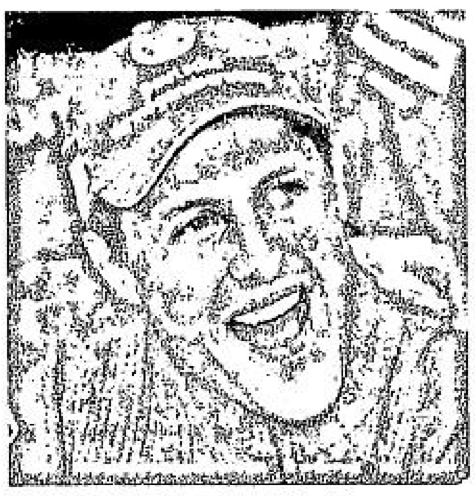
Formula 1

2 world titles
Youngest world champion
(24 yrs , 1 month, 27 days)
Youngest winner of a Grand Prix
(Hungary 2003)

Records

15	wins
15	pole positions
8	fastest race laps
381	points scored
7	wins in a single season (2005)
37	podiums

AFP 221006



MICHAEL Schumacher: World's greatest race-winning Ferrari star. AP

Schumacher crosses finish line

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—MICHAEL Schumacher, his family and his friends faced the future with a smile here Sunday as the Brazilian Grand Prix brought down the curtain on Formula One's most remarkable racing career.

The 37-year-old German bade farewell to a life that turned him from the unknown son of a bricklayer into the world's greatest race-winning Ferrari star. He went out in style in his 249th and last race.

Despite starting from 10th place, he finished in fourth even overcoming an early puncture which sent him temporarily to the back of the field.

Schumacher had spent Saturday afternoon marooned as a spectator in his own car, in the back of the Ferrari garage, trapped in frustration in the final minutes of the last qualifying session of his F1 life as a broken fuel pump shattered any hopes he had of capturing an eighth world title.

Knowing he had little chance of victory, he gave his Ferrari team-mate Brazilian Felipe Massa full backing to aim for glory on home soil.

Massa won the race but the title went again to Fernando Alonso, the 25-year-old Renault driver from Oviedo, a man Schumacher recognized as his successor.

Massa, a handsome 25-year-old local boy started on pole, a position he claimed for only the third time in his career and which he acknowledged belonged to the people of Brazil in general and Sao Paulo in particular.

All talk of taking the title away from Alonso, or a race win from Massa, was banished from Schumacher's mind—but that was no signal that he would race without any of his fearsome competitive instinct or will to win. *AFP*

Candidates rip SBC, share lead with UST

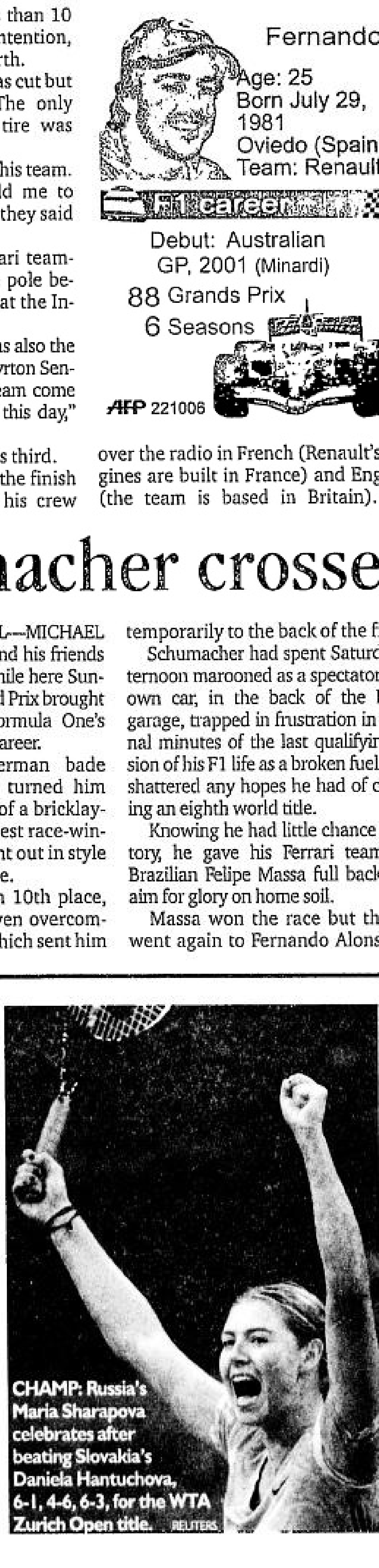
CANDIDATES PROVED TOO strong for a youthful San Beda College side en route to a 13-0 rout last weekend to tie idle UST for the early lead in the PFF Ang Liga Pilipina football tournament at the San Beda soccer grounds.

Forward Pia Santos had a hat trick with goals in the 60th, 80th and 70th minutes while Rachel de los Reyes had two (22nd and 31st) for the Candidates' second straight win in the event organized by the Philippine National Women's Football Association.

The triumph enabled the Candidates, composed of national pool members, to catch up with University of Santo Tomas, which dumped Nomads, 10-0, last Oct. 17 in the tourney backed by the Marikina City government of Mayor Marides Fernando.

Ruchel Latap (2nd and 40th) and Farabeth Limbo (23rd and 28th) had two markers apiece as Far Eastern University booked its first win in two matches by routing newly formed College of St. Benilde, 8-0.

Sphere subdued International FC, 2-0, to also win its first match in two outings in the league meant to provide more football competition among women in the country.



CHAMP: Russia's Maria Sharapova celebrates after beating Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3, for the WTA Zurich Open title. REUTERS

St. Scho Academy snares SBP plum

LUCENA CITY—ST. SCHOLASTICA'S ACADEmy and Baguio City National High School scored lopsided victories Sunday to walk away with the SBP and Passerelle titles, respectively, in the Milo BEST Luzon regional finals at the Enverga gym here.

The Scholasticans crushed Maryhill College, 77-31, while the Baguio boys crushed Don Bosco Academy, 100-70.

It was the first time in 17 years that a Baguio team has won a youth cage title.

With their victories, St. Scholastica and Baguio will represent Luzon in the national finals to be held at the University of Assumption in San Fernando, Pampanga, on Nov. 25-26.

Pangasinan National High clinched third spot in the Passerelle division after nosing out Maryhill College, 55-53.

Jao zeroes in on Superbikes season sweep

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—DEFENDING CHAMPION JOLET JAO OF SHELL Advance-Kawasaki moved a step closer to a season sweep with two victories in the fifth leg on Sunday of the 2006 Shell Advance Superbikes Series-San Mig Coffee Road Racing Championship at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

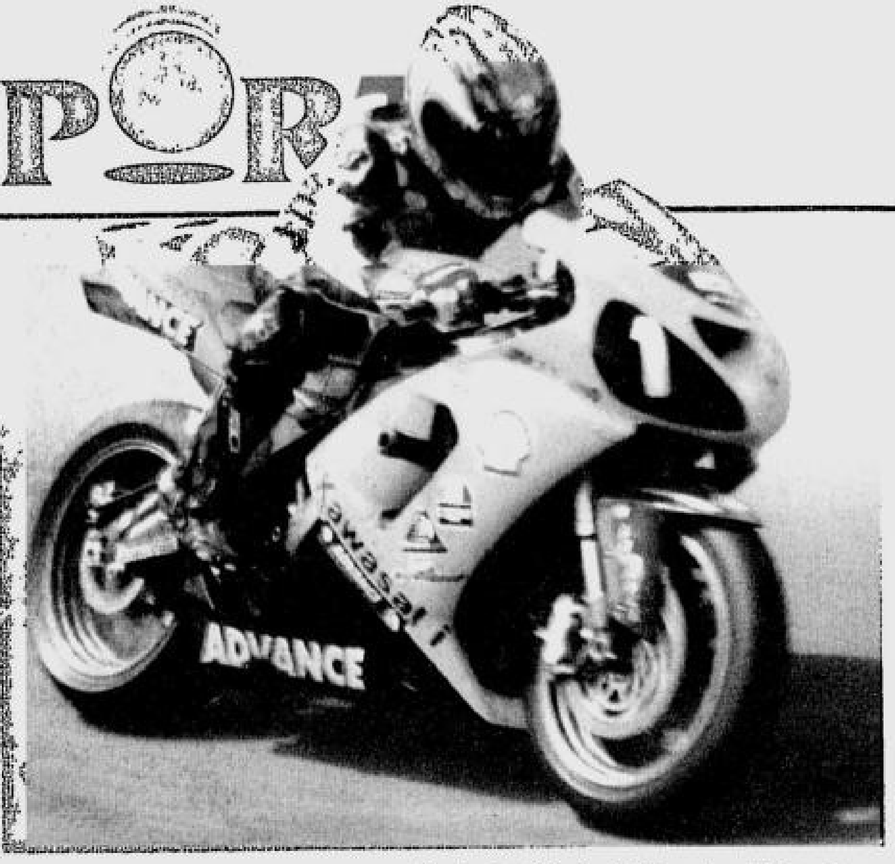
The twin romp was the fifth in a row for Jao, who is gunning for his 10th Superbikes crown in this event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa).

But Jao had to work real hard this time as Wacky del Rosario of Petron Blaze pushed him all the way after the exit of closest challenger Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex due to engine problems.

After ruling Race 9 without too much of an effort, Jao trailed surprised leader Del Rosario who held the lead in the next race until the seventh lap.

Jao, tested by Del Rosario's defensive racing line, finally made his move with just two laps left, uncorking a big dive in the fourth turn to wrest the lead for good. He finished with a total time of 16:16.283.

Del Rosario, who posted the fastest laptime of 1:47.278, checked in 13.928 seconds later. Julian Goitia settled for third place in both races.



JOLET Jao floors it after passing erstwhile leader Wacky del Rosario with two laps to go in Race 10 at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Rod Chua sustained a shoulder injury in an accident in the Underbone class and failed to join the Superbikes race.

John Diego ruled the Intermediate class while John Defensor, nephew of Sen. Miriam Santiago, swept the Entry Level division over David Pua and third placer Ghery Chua.

Aries Padiernos and Maico Buncio also posted sweeps in their respective divisions in the San Mig Coffee Road Racing Championship.

Padiernos topped the RRC Formula 400 class while Buncio dominated the RRC Novice 400 class over Geoffrey Aguisanda.

Ochoa, Garcia capture Shell Active chess national titles

KARL VICTOR OCHOA SCORED 4.5 POINTS in the last five rounds, including a final-round win over Vic Neil Villanueva, to bag the juniors crown while Jan Emmanuel Garcia beat Joel Pimentel then nipped Haridas Pascua in the tiebreak to rule the kiddies division in the grand finals on Sunday of the Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships at SM North Edsa.

The seventh-ranked Ochoa beat John Bryll Arellano in the fifth round before gaining a share of the lead with an upset of erstwhile unbeaten Nelson Mariano III in the sixth round.

The Bulacan State University standout seized the solo lead in the penultimate round as Mariano fell again, this time to Gilly Jay Maximo. That enabled Ochoa to storm ahead with 6.5 points despite a draw with UE's Eugene Pimentel.

Ochoa then trampled Villanueva in the final round to finish with 7.5 points. He won the champion's trophy and P30,000 cash.

Pimentel beat Mariano in the final round to finish with 6.5, then edged Maximo in the tiebreak to take second place worth P20,000.

Maximo settled for the P15,000 third prize. Rounding out the top 10 finishers in the juniors division are Mariano, 6.0; Calonia, Jerwell Andoy, Brene Parreno, all with 5.5 apiece; Arellano, Villanueva and Eric Abanco, all with 5.0 each.

Ten-year-old Mac Dominique Lagula of Bonfal Pilot Central School, Nueva Vizcaya took the Art Borjal award as the youngest finalist.

Garcia, who swept the first four games in the 14-under class, settled for three draws on Sunday, lost to Jude Fronda, before beating Pimentel in the final round to finish with 6.5 points.

Pascua also wound up with 6.5 points. But Garcia took the champion's trophy and P20,000 in the tiebreaker. Pascua settled for P15,000.

Jerich Cajeras finished with 6 points then edged Pimentel and Fronda to claim third place honors worth P10,000. Pimentel wound up fourth followed by Fronda, Galan, Loren Laceste, Turqueza, Lennon Salgados and Franz Grafil.

They're not the fast and furious, all right, but . . .

ROLAND Hermoso (right) briefs PSA Team members (from left) Quinto of Malaya, Cardona of Tribune and Reyes of the Inquirer before the race.

FOR MORE THAN THREE HOURS ON SUNday, scribes chronicling the exploits of the country's racing stars had the time of their lives living their fantasies—they raced, while the men and women they write about watched from the sidelines, cajoling them to floor it.

The machines they rode were not the powerful Asian Formula Three cars but go-karts, more than enough to give them a high, during the AF3 Karting Challenge at The Fort's Speedzone track.

The scribes, including members of the Philippine Sportwriters Association, gave it a go, with driving stars, among them Dado Peña, Tyson Sy and Pepon Marave, acting as their coaches.

Marave, the 2003 AF3 champion, had the biggest grin when the night was over, earning bragging rights after his team, SFIC-Manual Magazine, led by Marlon Stockinger, won the enduro race with 173 laps in three hours.

Second place went to the Oxy-Solar Sports team of Eric Camarillo that completed 171 laps, just one lap better than the team of Samsung-Stoplight TV-Manila Bulletin. Fourth went to the Mossimo-FU Magazine-Animo team of Michele Bumgarner, while the Lima City Hotel-Big Shot Billiards team of Gaby dela Merced finished fifth.

"I can only hope the scribes have caught the (driving) bug," said AF3 Corp. chair Eddie Peña.

The karting challenge served as a prelude to the AF3 Street Drive this Friday at the SM Mall of Asia where the leading drivers of the nation-hopping series will display their driving skills.

Roland Hermoso's PSA Team, which included Aldrin Cardona, Julis Manicad, Mark Anthony Reyes, Arman Armero, Aldrin Quinto and Dominic Menor, finished eighth.

Why not the world?
- Lea Salonga
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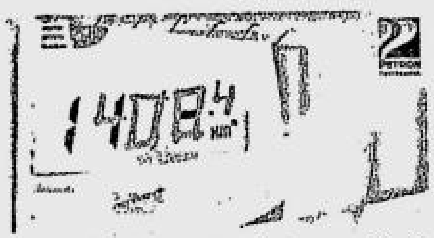


A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

Stock market marks highest close in 9 years

Another milestone crossed as traders extend buying

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

STOCKS CLIMBED TO ITS HIGHEST FINISH IN MORE than nine years, buoyed by extended buying from last week, record highs from Wall Street, and bets of better third quarter earnings, fund managers said yesterday.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) rose 8.11 points or 0.31 percent to 2,625.52, having traded in a range between 2,613.05 and 2,632.91.

It was its best finish since it closed at 2,572.43 points on Aug. 11, 1997, the PSE said in a statement yesterday.

The broader all-share index rose 5.14 points to 1,613.88.

This is the fourth day the PSEi has trekked north.

Value turnover hit P3.7 billion with gainers beating losers 58 to 48. Total foreign buying hit P2.34 billion, while total foreign selling was P2.09 billion. As a result, net foreign buying was P250 million.

"The regional markets have been very strong in line with the Dow Jones all time highs, so I think the equity markets have been pricing in a possible slowdown in the US and, therefore, if they are discounting a soft landing, they are expecting a possible recovery," said Paul Joseph Garcia, chief investment officer at ING Investment Management.

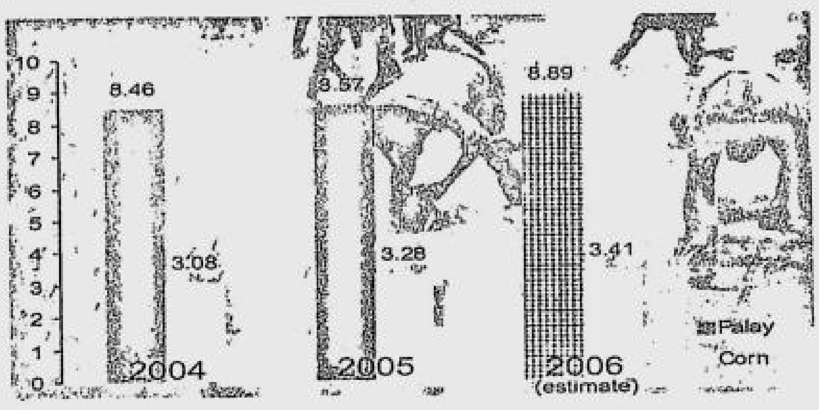
Having broken the 2,600-point barrier, the market is now expected to con-

TITLE/ B3

INQUIRER MONITOR
Figures that matter in our nation's life

Palay and corn production estimates up
(July-December 2004-2006, in million metric tons)

Palay and corn production are expected to both grow by 3.8 percent in the second semester of 2006, compared to the same period last year.



Source: Rice and Corn Situation and Outlook (July 2006) Bureau of Agricultural Statistics
Kate V. Pedroso Inquirer Research

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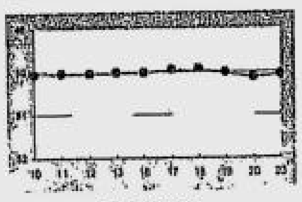

DECEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 50.055 = $ 1

¥ 118.94 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 23, 2006

GOLD: **$589.00-589.50**
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 23, 2006

IN THIS ISSUE

Dow breaks 12,000;
Phisix breaches 2,600 /B2

With banks still awash with cash, T-bill rates decline

By Michelle V. Remo

TREASURY BILL RATES DECLINED across the board yesterday, with the benchmark 91-day bills dropping for the first time in four auctions, amid high market liquidity and prospects of lower-than-programmed budget deficit for the year.

The three-month government security fetched 5.465 percent, or 0.8 basis points lower than the 5.473 percent recorded in the last auction two weeks ago.

About P3.29 billion worth of bids came in for the three-month bill, even though the government's debt offering was only P2 billion per T-bill tenor.

The 182-day bills fetched 5.771 percent, dropping by 1.9 percent from its previous rate of 5.79 percent. The six-month security was over-subscribed as well, with bids reaching an even higher P5.7 billion.

The 364-day bills was the most attractive for the market, with bids hitting P7.79 billion. The rate for the one-year securities stood at 6.575 percent, 13.8 percent lower than the previous rate of 6.713 percent.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said

WITH/ B3

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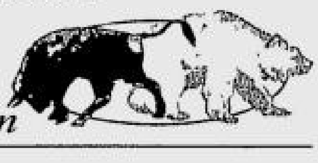

Ron Nathan

AYALA CORP. ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD sold its steak in BURGER KING. No, it is not a spelling misteak.

PAL has just ordered eight wide-bodies Airbuses just to accommodate my wife. I had better be careful, she has started reading my articles.

I don't know if it is true, but someone told me that there is a place called SEXMOAN between Angeles City and Subic. Is this true?

Don't come to my bank. I asked the teller to check my balance and she gave me a push.

And don't come to my hospital either, as the chief surgeon is ruder than DR. HOUSE. He is nearly 70 but his hands and eyes are still good. The only problem is that he doesn't hear very well.

A newlywed came in for an appendectomy and got a vasectomy. Even worse was an 11-year old boy who came in to be circumcised and was castrated. His only consolation was that he won the no ball prize.

I read recently that love is entirely a matter of chemistry. That is why my wife treats me like toxic waste.

Some readers have asked me the secret of our long marriage. We take time to go to a good restaurant twice a week, a little candlelight, dinner, soft music and dancing. She goes Tuesdays, I go Fridays. Having been married 10 years, I don't worry about terrorism. My wife and I were happy for 20 years. Then we met.

A British company received a huge order from North Korea for fish'n chips, our national dish. The government was delighted until they realized that they meant fission chips (for nuclear weapons).

* * *

The DOW finally broke the elusive 12,000 barrier after a struggle lasting six years. Most of the results announced so far have been above analysts' expectations. Outstanding were IBM with profits up 47 percent, and GOOGLE whose profits almost doubled. Its shares rose $33 on Friday.

YAHOO did not fare so well and is trying to catch up but they have a formidable task as GOOGLE continues to expand into new areas. Chipmakers were affected by price cuts and intense competition between INTEL and AMD. The only chipmaker to be unaffected was PRINGLES.

Not all the news was good. The Producer Price index rose by 0.6 percent, far above the 0.2 percent expected. This means that companies must either pass this higher cost on to the consumer, which is inflationary, or absorb it, which would adversely affect profit margins unless offset by increased efficiency.

The Consumer Price index came in at 0.2 percent for the third consecutive month. This is acceptable because it is equivalent to 2.4 percent a year, slightly above BERNANKE's target of 2 percent. Housing starts surprised everyone buy rising from 165,000 to 175,000 in September so there is no sign of a housing-led recession.

Investors are being lulled into a false sense of security and some are contemplating a rate cut by the FED as early as next January. I think they are in for a big disappointment. I am certain there will be no change at the next meeting on Nov. 2 because BERNANKE would not do anything immediately ahead of the mid-term election in which President Bush is likely to lose control of one House or even both.

His predecessor GREENSPAN was always careful not to do anything that might be construed as political. But after the mid-term election, I would not be shocked if there was a rate hike.

A personal message to BERNANKE. I do not like your whiskers and moustache. I will ask the G7 to send you a G3 razor and I moustache you to get rid of the moustache.

The PHISIX, after moving sideways for nearly three weeks, eventually broke out of its trading range. It may move up further ahead of the 3rd quarter results, which are yet to be released. Generally speaking, they are expected to be good and on a Price Earnings ratio of 14.5, the market is not expensive but if the results fall short of expectations, there will be a correction.

Generally speaking, stocks go up two weeks before the results and down afterwards so it is usually right to sell the day before. This works the majority of the time in all countries because a large bull position is built up and it needs new buyers to push prices up further.

Often, there are not enough new buyers so the stock goes down even if the results were very good. The only exceptions are when there are unexpected stock dividends or sizable special dividends.

Other Asian markets were strong and are in sight of a six-year high. OPEC has decided on a cut of 1.2 millions barrels a day, slightly more than anticipated, but US inventories are 14 percent above its five-year average so crude oil fell below $57 a barrel.

As commodities follow the oil price (I still don't know why), gold is down again after breaching $600 an ounce momentarily. As the stocks follow the metal price, you have to be on your mettle.

SMC has a thai-up with Bangkok and had sales of 200 million baht from non-alcoholic beverages and fruit juice.

PAXYS will set up a company with STELLAR HOLDINGS to provide outsourcing solutions to Australian-based clients, a market largely untapped and unserviced by Philippine call centers.

PAXYS has acquired three companies in the past year, spending $28.3 million to expand its operations and now has 5,200 seats. Allowing for the rights issue at P1, anyone who followed my BUY recommendation has now multiplied his or her capital 5 times. I expect HEINZ to start outsaucing shortly otherwise they will never ketchup.

There is a good IPO coming out shortly. I can't mention it by name but it sounds fishy.

I will not write next Tuesday, as readers will either be in the cemetery or in the provinces. I will either write later in the week or I will wait until the following week.

mrbearbull@hotmail.com

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
ZYKEMANUEL INTERNATIONAL COMPANY LIMITED INC. 2123 C.M. Recto Ave., Sampaloc Manila	Emmanuel Ileanyi Eze	Manager
WONDERPHIL CONSULTANT CORP. Unit F 7/F, West Gate Twr. Investment Drive, Madrigal Bus. Park Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Dong Chul Han	Chairman of the Board and President
REFAST – 888 TRADERS, INC. Rm. 208 STP Bldg. 381 cor. Dasmarinas & Marquina Sts. Brgy. 291, Zone 027, Binondo, Manila	Wenxu Qiu	Marketing Manager
CMS CREW MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC. Trafalgar Plaza 105 H.V. Dela Costa St. Salcedo Village, Makati City	Milind Jagdish Phadnis	Owner's Representative
TUV PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 906, Orient Square Bldg. Emerald Ave., Ortigas Ctr. San Antonio, Pasig City	Peter Michael Hamel	Business Development Manager
GE MONEY BANK, INC. **(A Savings Bank)** E. Rodriguez corner Monte de Piedad St. Cubao, Quezon City	Ery Rinaldi Zaidir	Portfolio Analytics Head/ First Vice President
YOGAWORKS INC. 1503 88 Corporate Center 141 Valero St., Salcedo Village Makati City	Hilary Brooke Edesess	Consultant
AOTEA RISK CONSULTANCY INCORPORATED Unit 813, 8/F Peninsula Court 8735 Paseo De Roxas Ave. Makati City	Tamalaiga Jensen	Managing Director
PHILENTRA CORP. #37 Stella Marris St. Kapitolyo, Pasig City	Hongseop Kim	General Manager
YOGAWORKS, INC. 1503 88 Corporate Ctr. Valero St., Salcedo Village Makati City	Frantisek Simek	Consultant
DREAM STAIRWAY STORE 40 Malingap St., Teacher's Village Quezon City	Sang Hun An	Sales Manager
ADVANCED WORLD SYSTEMS, INC. 5/F, Citibank-Frabelle Bldg. Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang-Zapote Rd. Muntinlupa City	Tsuyoshi Takiguchi	Japanese Language Consultant
TAO MAO HOLDINGS CORPORATION Lot 7, Blk. 13 Nuestra Senora San Antonio Valley 1, Paranaque City	Ching-Hsing Chen	Director
CHIDOSON MARKETING INC. 10/F Rm. 1009 State Investment Bldg. 333 Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila	Ogueri Husebius Uwandu	Technician
CHIZZY CORPORATION Pad Unit, CRC Bldg., BF Dr. BF Resort Village, Talon Dos Las Pinas City	Michael George Ossi	General Manager

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–Oct. 24, 2006)

Smart urged to go public

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Commission has asked Smart Communications Inc., the country's leading mobile phone company, to explain why it has failed to go public.

The NTC reminded Smart in a letter sent last August that it has not complied with a provision of the Public Telecommunications Policy Act requiring telecommunications companies to sell part of their shares to the public.

Under Smart's franchise, it was supposed to conduct an initial public offering not later than August 2004.

Smart president Napoleon Nazareno, however, said earlier that the telco saw no need to conduct an IPO and that it does not need NTC's approval to postpone the shares offer.

Smart legal chief Rogelio V. Quevedo added in a September 22 letter that the franchise provision regarding IPOs for telcos was not mandatory.

"No penalty is imposed under RA 7294 for any failure to conduct offering of shares within the stated period," the letter said.

The letter also said that the "spirit" of RA 7294 was already being fulfilled by PLDT's full ownership of Smart.

"Since PLDT is the most widely-held publicly listed company in the Philippines, both in terms of common and preferred shares, the state policy of encouraging public ownership of both PLDT and Smart to the widest extent possible has already been achieved," the letter said.

"Though Smart and PLDT admittedly have separate and distinct personalities, what needs to be kept in mind is that since Smart is a wholly-owned subsidiary of PLDT, the shareholders of PLDT are effectively the indirect owners of Smart," it said.

Quevedo also said Smart's decision to defer its public listing was driven mainly by generally accepted business considerations.

NTC Commissioner Ronald O. Solis was not convinced.

"We have brought this matter several times to attention of Smart, even Congress has brought it up," he said. "I have advised the (NTC) legal department to study the letter and see what course of action we will take."

RCBC raises $100M to boost capital base

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING Corp., the country's sixth largest bank, said it had raised $100 million from its hybrid perpetual securities issue.

Hybrid securities are debt instruments with features similar to equities or shares of stock.

The bank said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday that the hybrid perpetual securities issue was part of RCBC's efforts to raise capital in anticipation of the more stringent requirements under Basel II.

Basel II refers to the second round of deliberations of central bankers worldwide under the auspices of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) in Basel, Switzerland.

The deliberations aim at bringing about uniformity in the way banks and banking regulators approach risk management.

RCBC said proceeds of the offer would be used for "general corporate purposes."

RCBC's debt offer was also oversubscribed with 40 international investors participating from Asia and Europe with strong participation from banks (38 percent, asset managers (36 percent) and private banks (26 percent).

Citigroup and Credit Suisse acted as joint bookrunners and lead managers for the deal.

The Bangko Sentral earlier approved the bank's application to issue up to $100 million in hybrid capital.

The bank said Standard & Poor's Rating Services has recently assigned a "CCC" rating to its perpetual hybrid tier 1 securities.

S&P said debt rated 'CCC' is vulnerable to nonpayment, and is dependent upon favorable business, financial and economic conditions for the borrower to meet its financial obligations.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 20, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	22,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	41	43.5	41	43.5	4,062,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	60	58.5	60	3,415,400
China Banking Corp.	675	675	670	670	6,120
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.44	0.45	0.42	0.42	9,320,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	68	68.5	67.5	68.5	35,000
Philippine National Bank	35	35	34	34	6,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18	18	18	18	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	55	55.5	54.5	55	146,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	46	46	46	46	3,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	4.65	4.8	4.6	4.8	1,262,000
First Abacus Financial	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	40,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1575	1575	1575	1575	100
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	604,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2015	2000	2015	400
Ivantage Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	1,913,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	52.5	53	52.5	53	637,400
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	51	51.5	51	51	650,200
Manila Electric Co. A	27	27.5	27	27	135,500
Manila Electric Co. B	32.5	32.5	32	32	440,100
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.1	9.2	9	9.1	1,478,000
Petron Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.05	4.05	4,055,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	500,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.02	1.02	1	1	591,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	11,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22	22.25	22	22.25	35,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	40	41	40	41	953,900
Pancake House Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	14,000
RFM Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.12	149,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	34,000
San Miguel Corp. A	66	66.5	66	66.5	50,500
San Miguel Corp. B	73.5	73.5	73.5	73.5	108,700
Universal Robina Corp.	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	1,370,200
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.43	0.46	0.43	0.46	22,490,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.65	2.8	7,928,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	2.04	2.12	2.04	2.1	255,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	1,988,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4.8	5.3	4.8	5.3	28,000
Republic Cement Corp.	2.1	2.28	2.1	2.24	481,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.7	5	4.7	5	1,899,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.73	0.75	0.71	0.73	89,950,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.17	0.17	7,200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.45	0.45	0.4	0.4	70,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	487.5	492.5	487.5	490	113,760
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	506,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.038	0.032	0.038	257,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.48	2.65	2.48	2.65	1,326,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.25	3,210,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	5,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.91	1,010,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	3.05	3.15	3.05	3.15	40,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.24	45,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.38	1.42	4,311,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.65	573,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.71	0.71	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	1,320,000
F&J Princ.E Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	30,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.78	1.8	1,798,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	1,397,000
Medco Holdings	0.235	0.26	0.235	0.26	3,150,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.28	250,000
Magnum Holdings Inc	2.1	2.4	2.04	2.38	698,000
Multitech Inv. Corp	1.68	1.78	1.64	1.74	14,353,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.013	0.011	0.013	98,200,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.195	2,260,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	40,000
Solid Group Inc	0.76	0.77	0.76	0.77	1,030,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	2,100,000
SM Investments Corp.	270	272.5	270	272.5	235,170
South China Resources Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.93	0.93	100,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.48	1.5	408,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	5,500,000
Wellex Industries Inc	0.145	0.145	0.135	0.14	4,030,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.33	0.28	0.33	920,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14.25	14.5	14	14.25	10,658,700
Belle Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	6,637,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	44,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	15,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.45	0.48	0.44	0.46	28,540,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.9	3	2.9	3	323,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.54	78,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.86	1.88	1.86	1.88	90,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	710,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.18	0.18	320,000
Empire East Land Inc	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	19,890,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	630,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0625	0.0625	0.06	0.06	4,800,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.7	1.74	1.7	1.74	28,920,000
Interport Res.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	6,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	10,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	140,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	1,940,000
City & Land Developers	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	74,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc	0.85	0.89	0.85	0.85	5,690,000
Megaworld Corp.	2.08	2.16	2.08	2.14	231,152,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.05	3.05	2,051,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.35	6,020,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.2	22,010,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	14	14.5	14	14.25	3,415,900
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	410,000
SM Development Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	26,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.7	2,221,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	170,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.105	3,750,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	37,600
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1	1	1	1	160,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.52	1.56	1.5	1.56	8,467,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1085	1110	1085	1100	110,280
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.8	4,104,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co	2295	2295	2280	2280	623,280
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	5,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.9	1.9	1,053,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.06	0.0575	0.06	16,800,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	50,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	89,800,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	65,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	275,300
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	100,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	50,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5	5	5	5	330,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	32	32	32	32	500
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.22	2.3	2.2	2.28	8,450,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	4,940,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	50,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.55	0.57	0.51	0.53	5,860,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	9	9	20,000
IPeople Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	38,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.02	2.06	1.98	1.98	345,000
Paxys Inc.	14	14	13.75	14	775,800
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.32	1.36	1.32	1.36	40,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.7	2,383,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	878,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.01	0.011	0.0095	0.01	121,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.3	8.4	8	8.1	6,214,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.6	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	2,610,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	450,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	38,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.023	93,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	138,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.75	3.75	3,422,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	18.75	19	18.75	18.75	331,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.69	0.7	0.67	0.67	340,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	3,130,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.011	0.0095	0.01	30,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	230,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1	1	1	1	100,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10	10.25	10	10	126,100
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	103	103	103	103	500
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	586,800
SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES					
Information Capital Tech.	6.4	6.4	5.9	5.9	39,000

CURRENCIES

October 23, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.792707	1.000000	50.0810
Japan	Yen	0.006682	0.008429	0.4221
United Kingdom	Pound	1.492588	1.882900	94.2975
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101827	0.128455	6.4332
Switzerland	Franc	0.629732	0.794407	39.7847
Canada	Dollar	0.704378	0.888573	44.5006
Singapore	Dollar	0.503946	0.635728	31.8379
Australia	Dollar	0.600946	0.758093	37.9661
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.102839	2.652731	132.8514
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.211727	0.267094	13.3763
Brunei	Dollar	0.502350	0.633714	31.7370
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000110	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021287	0.026853	1.3448
UAE	Dirham	0.215832	0.272272	13.6357
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.261500	63.1772
Argentina	Peso	0.256748	0.323887	16.2206
Brazil	Real	0.370597	0.467508	23.4133
Denmark	Kroner	0.134148	0.169228	8.4751
India	Rupee	0.017546	0.022134	1.1085
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215761	0.272183	13.6312
Mexico	New Peso	0.073168	0.092302	4.6226
New Zealand	Dollar	0.528965	0.667289	33.4185
South Africa	Rand	0.105102	0.132586	6.6400
Korea	Won	0.000828	0.001045	0.0523
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023880	0.030125	1.5087

Napocor taps foreign banks for $700-M bond issue

Proceeds to be used to pay off or refinance debts

By Abigail L. Ho

STATE-RUN NATIONAL POWER Corp. has tapped foreign banks Citigroup and Deutsche Bank AG as joint bookrunners for the state firm's proposed bond offer, the proceeds of which will be used to cover some of its maturing debts this year.

"The bonds will be unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed by the Republic of the Philippines," Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) yesterday said. "The proposed transaction will be announced soon, subject to market conditions."

PSALM noted that the announcement was not an offer of securities for sale in the United States. It said that there was no intention to register any portion of the proposed offering in the US or to conduct a public offering there.

Following the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' approval in late August of a $700-million foreign bond issuance for Napocor, PSALM president Nieves Osorio said the government privatization body would proceed with the issuance of the debt paper this month.

Osorio said part of the proceeds from the borrowing would be used to pay off or refinance Napocor's maturing debts for the year.

In September, some P3.92 billion ($77.3 million) in debts matured. Another P2.2 billion ($43.4 million) are due this month.

Around $200 million would cover part of the Yankee bond, which Napocor availed of in 1996, and would be maturing late this year, she said.

Another $300 million would likely be earmarked for other debts, particularly those that the national government did not absorb.

The national government earlier assumed P200 billion of Napocor's debts—the most it could absorb under RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira).

Osorio said a number of entities had already expressed willingness to lend to PSALM, on behalf of Napocor.

"We've gotten a lot of inquiries," she had said earlier.

Napocor last year borrowed nearly $800 million to finance its maturing obligations, as well as its capital expenditures and general funding requirements.

Around $300 million of that came from six-year floating rate notes, which were issued in the third quarter of last year.

Fitch Ratings yesterday affirmed the rating of the $300-million notes at 'BB' with a stable outlook.

The notes, which bear interest based on the three-month US dollar London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor) plus 425 basis points, also carry an unconditional and irrevocable government guarantee.

Initially offered in Asia at $200 million, the final issue was jacked up to $300 million due to strong investor response. It was oversubscribed by $200 million in Asia, Europe and North America.

The rating pertains to the timely payment of interest and the ultimate payment of principal of the notes upon maturity in 2011. *With a report from Reuters*

Relief moods

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

* * *

LET ME ADVISE THE KIDS—AMONG THOSE 3,000 or so families living in Guimaras—to stay out of the ongoing debate over the 2-million liter oil spill in the seas near their homes.

Based on a report from NGOs, those families are already going hungry. Thanks to the oil spill, they lost their livelihood. Even the so-called relief goods are now getting there in trickles. There is not enough food for everybody. Thus, malnutrition among the children must be getting worse.

Prior to the oil spill, or what media called the "worst environmental disaster" in this country—courtesy of the sunken tanker MT Solar I, which was carrying bunker fuel oil for our beloved Petron Corp. (majority owned by the Saudi firm Aramco, in partnership with our government)—about 20 out of 100 children in the area were estimated to have been suffering from malnutrition.

Nobody dares to come up with a guess today. The figure must be somewhere up there in the stratosphere.

And so those poor people, barely surviving prior to the disaster, should better stay out of the dead-serious debate on how our government should attack this complicated issue, which is way beyond their understanding. They don't have to wait that much longer, anyway. Judging from the leisurely pace of the resolution of the crisis—i.e., who must pay up—I would say that the debate should be over in their next life.

Precisely to help the kids fight malnutrition, Megaworld and ABS-CBN Foundation came up with a project called "Sagip Kabataan ng Guimaras," a supplemental feeding program for those poor children.

Kevin Tan, head of Megaworld's commercial division, who also happens to be the eldest son of Megaworld founder Andrew Tan, says that the project is meant to create an awareness of the malnutrition problem in Guimaras, first and foremost.

By doing so, Kevin Tan hopes to raise a little money for the feeding program, which will be launched in a concert at the Eastwood City on Oct. 26. For the whole of November and December this year, donation cans for the project will be on display at Eastwood City establishments.

I have only one question: What is Petron doing?

* * *

Still in the mood, but this time as a private citizen, for delivering truckloads of relief goods to calamity victims, former congressman Mark Jimenez is claiming that he is now a changed man.

Jimenez made the claim recently during the national convention of the 5,000-strong Liga Ng Mga Barangay, which was held in Cebu City.

He said that the change took place during his two-year imprisonment in the United States, particularly, whenever he spent time in the "isolation chamber" for giving money to other Filipino inmates, which happened often.

Well, come to think of it, Jimenez also went to jailed for giving money. You know, political contributions! He did not go to jail for stealing money or something. For that matter, in this country, those who steal never go to jail, right?

Anyway, Jimenez said that he has forgiven those who have done him wrong. Does his list include, say, former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who was fired by this cute administration precisely in connection with the Jimenez case?

With his mood for charity—such as, going to calamity and disaster areas to give away goods and cash, and helping educational plan holders of pre-need companies through a P75-million donation—Jimenez is attracting not just a little attention.

The question that people usually ask him is, well, what public position is he going to run for next year. And his reply is, "why should I want to be a politician?"

Jimenez says the simple truth is that he is returning to God.

Besides, if things go as planned under this cute administration, we are not going to have elections next year.

* * *

If you check out the website of the Philippine National Red Cross (www.redcross.org.ph), you will learn that the United States government donated $100,000 to victims of typhoon "Milenyo."

Which is probably much more than I can say for our politicos.

The website in fact shows PNRC chair Sen. Richard Gordon with US Ambassador Kristie Kenney carrying kids during the recent mission to Albay and Sorsogon.

Next week, according to the website, the tandem is bound for the Quezon province which, unknown to many of us, was also heavily damaged by the typhoon.

Gordon reports that the damage caused by the typhoon is worse than originally expected, even worse than the landslides in Guinsaugon, Southern Leyte and the super typhoons that hit 14 provinces in late 2004 combined.

That is quite a revelation and, coming from the Red Cross, I am ready to believe it. To donate, please do not call me. You may call the PNRC Fund Generation Department at 527-0000 local 164 or log on to the PNRC website.

With banks …

From page B1

the decline in T-bill rates still had to do with the banks' being awash with cash. He said that there were P11 billion worth of government securities that matured last week and another P2.4 billion to mature this week, thus beefing up the banks' cash holdings.

The Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted P6 billion worth of bids, P2 billion per tenor, thus raising in full the scheduled borrowing from yesterday's auction.

Stock market …

From page B1

solidate at a higher level, according to Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.

Fitzgerald Aclan, head of strategy at BDO Trust, said that investors are also positioning ahead of better third quarter earnings from last year due to a stronger peso.

Vittorio Gomez, head of trading at RCBC Trust meanwhile said that, although the market is optimistic, it is also cautious about the upcoming Bangko Sentral monetary board meeting on Nov. 2, which will spell the fate of local interest rates.

Top-traded Philippine Long Distance Telephone fell P5 to P2,280, while property developer Megaworld rose eight centavos to P2.14.

San Miguel A and B shares ended flat at P66.50 and P73.50, respectively.

The market will be closed Tuesday for a public holiday. *With a report from AFP*

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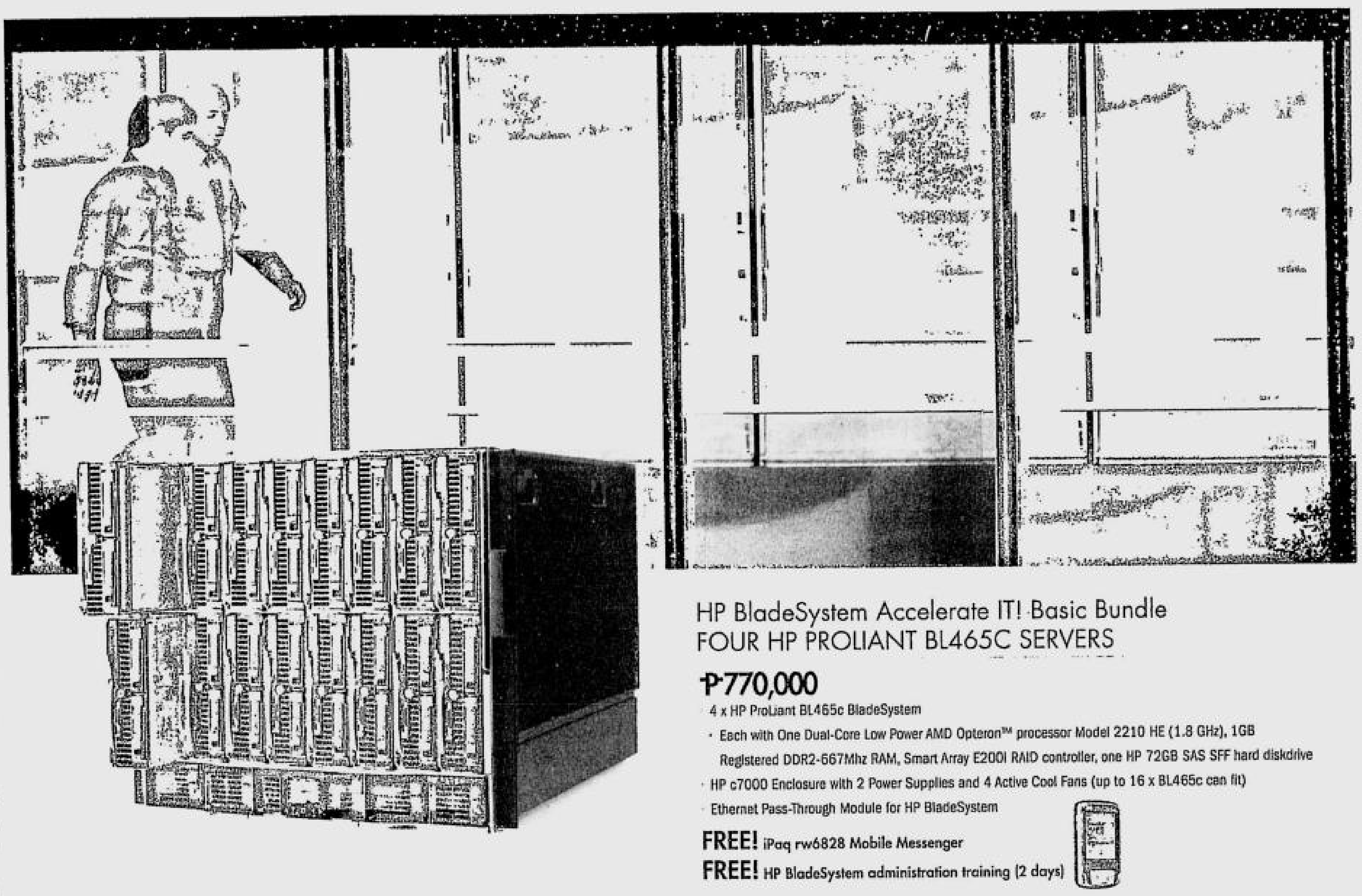

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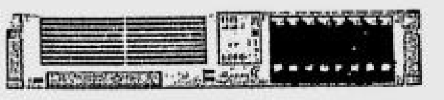

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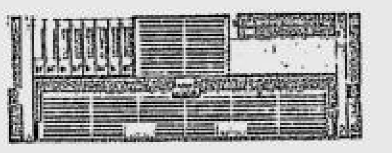

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Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 794
Series of 2006

AMENDING PROVISION ON SIGNATORIES TO SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR PROJECTS UNDER PD 957 AND BP 220

WHEREAS, Rule II, Section 5 .A.1 and B.2 paragraph 2 of the IRR for PD 957 and Rule III Section 10.A.1 and B.2 paragraph 2 of the IRR for BP 220 requires that Site Development Plan and Subdivision Development Plan be duly signed and sealed by any of the following: an architect who is also an environmental planner, a civil engineer who is also an environmental planner, a geodetic engineer who is also an environmental planner or an architect or civil engineer or geodetic engineer and an environmental planner as co-signatory;

WHEREAS, various groups of real estate developers have brought to the attention of HUDCC and this Board issues relative to the implementation of the aforementioned provision;

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 1152 entitled, "Philippine Environmental Policy", declared a continuing policy of the state to create, develop, maintain and improve conditions under which man and nature can thrive in productive and enjoyable harmony with each other; to fulfill the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations of Filipino and to ensure the attainment of an environmental quality that is conducive to a life of dignity and well-being;

WHEREAS, an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) duly issued by the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is a requirement in the issuance of Development Permit for subdivision development, to ensure site suitability and public safety;

WHEREAS, the Board after thorough review of the technical requirements of the EMB for the issuance of ECC finds that environmental concerns and suitability of an area for subdivision development are adequately addressed in the process;

WHEREAS, the Board finds, that based on the various laws defining the scope of practice of different professionals involved in subdivision development, there are overlapping competencies in the preparation of site development plans and subdivision development plans;

WHEREFORE, RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that Rule II Section 5.A.1 and B.2 paragraph 2 of the IRR for PD 957 and Rule III Section 10.A.1 and B.2 paragraph 2 of the IRR for BP 220 be **MODIFIED** to read as follows:

FOR PD 957 IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

XXX

Section 5. Application for Approval of Subdivision Development Plan

Every registered owner or developer of a parcel of land who wishes to convert the same into a subdivision project shall apply with the Board or Local Government Unit concerned for approval of the subdivision development plan by filing the following:

A. For Optional Application for Preliminary Subdivision Development Plan

1. At least 2 sets of site development plan (schematic plan) at a scale ranging from 1:200 to 1:2,000 showing the proposed layout of streets, lots, parks and playgrounds and other features in relation to existing conditions in the area prepared, signed and sealed by any licensed and registered architect, environmental planner, civil engineer, or geodetic engineer.

xxx

B. For application for subdivision Development Permit

1) All requirements for application for preliminary Subdivision Development Plan as specified on Section 5.A of this Rule.

2) Subdivision Development Plan consisting of the site development plan at any of the following scales: 1:200; 1:1,000 ; or any scale not exceeding 1:2,000; showing all proposals including the following:

   a. Roads, easements or right-of-way and roadway width, alignment, gradient, and similar data for alleys, if any.
   b. Lot numbers, lines and areas and block numbers.
   c. Site data such as number of residential and saleable lots, typical lot size, parks and playgrounds and open spaces.

The Subdivision Development Plan shall be prepared, signed and sealed by any licensed and registered architect, environmental planner, civil engineer or geodetic engineer.

XXX

FOR BP 220 IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

XXXX

Section 10. Application for Approval of Subdivision Development Plan

Every registered owner or developer of a parcel of land who wishes to convert the same into a subdivision project shall apply with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board or Local Government Unit concerned for approval of the subdivision development plan by filing the following:

A. For Optional Application for Preliminary Subdivision Development Plan

1. At least 2 sets of site development plan (schematic plan) at a scale ranging from 1:200 to 1:2,000 showing the proposed layout of streets, lots, parks and playgrounds and other features in relation to existing conditions prepared, signed and sealed by any licensed and registered architect, environmental planner, civil engineer or geodetic engineer.

xxx

B. For application for Subdivision Development Permit

1. All requirements for application for preliminary Subdivision Development Plan as specified on Section 10.A of this Rule.
2. Subdivision Development Plan consisting of the site development plan at any of the following scales: 1:200; 1:1,000 ; or any scale not exceeding 1:2,000; showing all proposals including the following:
   d. Roads, easements or right-of-way and roadway width, alignment, gradient, and similar data for alleys, if any.
   e. Lot numbers, lines and areas and block numbers.
   f. Site data such as number of residential and saleable lots, typical lot size, parks and playgrounds and open spaces.

The Subdivision Development Plan shall be prepared, signed and sealed by any licensed and registered architect, environmental planner, civil engineer or geodetic engineer.

xxx

APPROVED, this 11th day of September, 2006, Pasay City.

HON. NOLI L. DE CASTRO
Vice-President of the Philippines and
HUDCC Chairman

ERNESTO L. PINEDA
Undersecretary, DOJ

ROMULO Q.M. FABUL
Chief Executive Officer
And Commissioner

WENCELITO T. ANDANAR
Undersecretary, DILG

TERESITA A. DESIERTO
Commissioner

AUGUSTO B. SANTOS
Deputy Director General, NEDA

JESUS YAP PANG
Commissioner

JOEL I. JACOB
DPWH

ARTURO M. DUBLADO
Commissioner

Attested by:

CHARITO B. LANSANG
Board Secretary

(PDI - Oct. 24, 2006)

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Department of Labor and Employment – National Capital Region (DOLE-NCR) on Page B2

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Please submit complete application form, employment certificate, NBI and Police Clearance, and 2x2 picture to:

672 Carlos Palanca Sr. St. (Echague), Quiapo, Manila

ACCOUNTING PERSONNEL	Male/female, not more than 30 years old, Accounting graduate, 2 years related experience. Computer literate, with good oral & written communication. Honest & hardworking, with good working attitude.
DRIVER	Male, 22-30 years old, graduate of Auto Mechanics or any related vocational course, has 2-3 years work experience, with driver's license, restrictions 1, 2 & 3. Familiar with Metro Manila areas and knowledgeable in automotive trouble shooting and repair.
AUTO MECHANIC	Male, 20-30 years old, Automotive graduate / vocational graduate. Drivers license is an advantage. Preferably with least 3 years experience as auto mechanic / auto electrician.

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL NEGROS
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Provincial Government of Oriental Negros invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids for the supply, delivery and installation of **One (1) Lot "CLASS A" Synthetic Rubber Surfacing (ABC: P22,109,360.00)** for the M.F. Perdices Memorial Coliseum Track and Oval, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City.

The list of eligibility requirements is now available at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial General Services Office (PGSO) Capitol Area, Dumaguete City, with Tel/Fax #: (035) 422-8895.

The **Pre-Bid Conference** is scheduled on **October 26, 2006** at 10:00 a.m. at the Governor's Office Conference Room, Capitol, Dumaguete City while the **submission and opening of bids** is scheduled on **November 7, 2006** at 10:00 a.m. at the PGSO, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Provincial General Services Officer

(PDI–October 17 & 24, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **South China Resources, Inc.** (formerly South China Petroleum & Exploration, Inc.) has moved to a new address:

3/F Low Rise Pacific Star Bldg.,
Sen Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave.,
Makati City

We can be reached thru the following numbers:

Tel. No.: (632) 892-2049
Telefax No.: (632) 812-2383

(PDI - Oct. 23 to 27, Oct. 30 to 31, & Nov. 1 to 3, 2006)

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SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
Tel. Nos. (047) 252-4191/4713/4015/4723/4483/4526 FAX NO. (047) 252-4472

SBMA-BAC-INV-06-004
Infrastructure Project
SBMA, SBFZ

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
RENOVATION OF VARIOUS HOUSING UNITS
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

Project Description/Scope of Works:

The Works shall include repair or replacement of existing asphalt roof shingles, roof gutters and downspouts, gypsum board ceiling, vinyl flooring, doors and windows, cabinets and closets, wiring and cables, lighting fixtures, electrical appliances and devices, air-conditioning, domestic water piping, water heaters (40 gals.), plumbing fixtures and fittings, de-clogging of domestic sewer lines, termite control, painting, and other incidentals necessary to complete the Works.

1. The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), through its Corporate Budget for 2006 intends to apply the sum of **Six Million Three Hundred Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php6.32 Million)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Renovation of Various Housing Units**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The SBMA now calls for the submission of **Letters of Intent (LOIs) and Application for Eligibility** from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Renovation of Various Housing Units. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids.
3. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).
4. Information on BAC activities is as follows:

Item No.	BAC Activities	Schedule	Address
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of LOIs including Application for Eligibility and Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Oct. 25 and 26, 2006; 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	BAC Chairman c/o Engineering Department, Room 223, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone (SBFZ)
2.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Nov. 3, 2006; 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	BAC Secretariat, Room 203, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ
3.	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	Nov. 9, 2006; 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Same address on Item 2
4.	Issuance of Bid Documents	Nov. 10-13, 2006; 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	Same address on Item 1
5.	Pre-bid Conference	Nov. 16, 2006; 2:00PM	PPMD Conference Room, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ
6.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	Nov. 28, 2006; 2:00PM	Same address on Item 5

5. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the above address upon their submission of a LOI and Application for Eligibility, and upon their payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00)**.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00)**.
7. Relevant Requirement: Minimum PCAB Registration and Classification/License:
   General Building
   GB-1 Building or Industrial Plant
   Small B
8. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, a certified check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC), or bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC) or surety bond (2.5% of ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
9. Completion of the Works is required by **Ninety (90) calendar days** from the date stated in the Notice to Proceed.
10. The SBMA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, in accordance with the provisions of RA 9184 without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ATTY. RAMON O. AGREGADO
BAC Chairman/SDA for Support services

(PDI – October 24, 2006)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 528-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time		Non-Refundable Fee
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening of Bids	
Two (2) Years Contract for Messengerial/ Courier Services for the Period January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008	P24,992,774.40	November 9, 2006 10:00 AM	November 22, 2006 1:00 PM	P12,500.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the General Services Department starting October 17, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above. The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at GSD Conference Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes placed in single outer envelope and sealed accordingly in the bid box located at the abovementioned address.

For more information, please call the LBP-Requisitions Management Division at telephone nos. 551-2200 locals 2452, 2453, 7233 & 7234.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

(PDI-Oct. 17 & 24, 2006) **BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**

AGUSAN DEL NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Km. 21 JC Aquino Avenue, Butuan City
Tel. Nos. (085) 341-9034; (085) 341-7935; Fax No. (085) 342-6000

INVITATION TO BID

The Agusan del Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ANECO) wishes to invite interested parties to Bid for the supply of the following:

		Agency Estimate
A.	Special equipments and commissioning of 10 MVA Substation	P 10,068,242.00
B.	Thermal Scanner – one (1) unit	1,000,000.00
C.	Computer software on load flow and short circuit analysis (SynerGee)	900,000.00
D.	Loadlogger – one (1) unit	800,000.00

Interested bidders are required to submit their letter of intent together with the latest copy of their company profile to the ANECO Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). Official bid forms for Item A will be made available to qualified bidders at a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00.

The pre-bid conference is scheduled on October 31, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. at the ANECO main office conference room. Opening of bid proposals will be conducted on the same venue on November 7, 2006 at 2:00 P.M. All participating bidders are required to submit a bid bond amounting to 5% of their total bid price in cash, manager's check or demand draft.

ANECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, wiave any minor defect in the proposal and accept the offer that will be evaluated to be the most advantageous to the cooperative.

(Sgd.) **RODOLFO L. RANOCO**
BAC Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) **HORACIO T. SANTOS**
General Manager

(PDI – October 23 & 24, 2006)

Gov't urged to denounce ILO Convention on night work prohibition for women

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOW denounce International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention No. 89 on Night Work (Women) Convention, 1948 which the Senate ratified on December 29, 1953.

This was the recommendation made by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) to the Senate after the latter sought its position on Senate Bill Nos. 1958, 2005, 2031, and 2132, authored by Senators Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada, Juan Flavier, Francis Pangilinan, and Miriam Defensor-Santiago, respectively, which propose to expand the exceptions to night work prohibition.

ECOP President Rene Y. Soriano pointed out that even if the Philippines had ratified ILO Convention No. 89, the ILO Committee of Experts in a series of comments, has noted for over the last 20 years that the night work prohibition of Art. 130 of the Labor Code covers only eight (8) hours, in violation of Art. 2 of Convention No. 89 which provides that women without distinction of age shall not be employed during the night in any public or private industrial undertaking for at least 11 consecutive hours of which seven (7) shall be between 10:00 pm and 7:00 am except for undertakings in which only members of the same family are employed.

In addition, Soriano emphasized that Art. 231 (e) of the Labor Code on "where the nature of the work requires manual skill cannot be performed with equal efficiency by male workers" and Section 5 (e), Rule XI, Book III of the Rules Implementing the Labor Code, "where the employment of women constitutes an already established practice," are not authorized by the Convention.

Soriano argued that Articles 130 (Night-work prohibition) and 131 (exceptions to night-work prohibition) of the Labor Code "have become an anachronism in a new world economy shaped by relentless globalization and rapid advances in technology particularly in the field of information and communication technology."

He cited that information-technology enabled outsourcing industry, which includes call centers, software development, business process outsourcing, medical transcription and digital animation, has experienced phenomenal growth in recent years. In particular, around 70% of the seats of the call centers are manned by women operators. In as much as these establishments operate round the clock to service their principals abroad, specifically in the United States, which have opposite time zones, Articles 130 and 131 "have become not only a legal impediment to the employment of more women but also instruments of undue discrimination against their sex," the ECOP president pointed out.

The current view on Convention No. 89 is that it is contrary to the principle of equality between men and women and thus is inherently discriminatory and a violation of Convention 111 (concerning discrimination in respect of employment and occupation), Soriano said.

Soriano asserted that the act of denouncing Convention No. 89 would free the Philippine government from repeatedly justifying to the ILO why it is not adhering to the Convention.

He said expanding the exceptions to night-work prohibition as proposed by the aforementioned bills "will not cure the non-adherence of the Philippines in so far as Articles 130 and 131 are concerned, to the pertinent provisions of Convention No. 89."

First Death Anniversary

We will always remember
our dearly beloved

BENJAMIN B. TRINIDAD

who passed away October 24, 2005

wife, Alice; children: Dondi and Marie Jo Roa, Sonny and Ruby, Buddy, Ann;
grandchildren: David, Anton, Monica, Matthew, Joachym & JT;
sisters: Celia, Sylvia, Pura; brother: Boy
friends and relatives

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want...and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord all my days." Psalm 23

In Loving Memory

on the 1st Death Anniversary of

MEYNARDO 'DADEE' L. GONZALES

October 24, 2005 – Oct. 24, 2006

His loving wife, **Linda**; children **Grace & Joel, Allan, Gary & Fe, Joyce, Meynard Andrew, Jr.** and **Armie, Meynard Mark III** and **Sheryl**; sisters **Emma, Luz & Eden**; brothers **Arthur, Galileo & Cesar**; grandchildren, nieces & nephews request relatives, friends and the pious reader to pay for the eternal repose of his soul.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for him today, October 24, 2006 at:

St. Andrew Parish, Bel-Air, Makati	6:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
Parish of St. Anthony, Bolbok, Lipa City	9:30 a.m.
Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Poblacion, Makati	6:30 p.m.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Our Beloved

Atty. Nelson L. Acebedo

Assistant Commissioner
Civil Service Commission
March 10, 1945 - October 20, 2006

His bereaved wife, Rose; son, AA; brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and relatives request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul. His remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

Tel. Nos. Q.C. - 712-3001; 749-3806 to 11

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
ANGELITA BOLISAY	Chapel 2	October 25, 2006 after the 1:00 PM Mass	Heritage Park Taguig City
CECILIA PUNZAL	Chapel B-6	October 25, 2006 after the 2:00 PM Mass	Holy Cross Mem. Park Quezon City

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"Even when I walk
through a dark valley,
I feel no harm. For you are
at my side, your rod and
staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

"The Lord is my strength and my shield in whom my heart trusted and found help. So my heart rejoices; with my song I praise my God..."
Psalm 28:7

LIRIO "Mama Lirs" CUNA

Peacefully joined our Creator and husband
***Honorio A. Cuna** on October 22, 2006*
at the age of 86.

Her children & in-laws **Mona & Bingo, Bunny & Gina, Mari & Dorothy, Maucie, Gaye & Butch**; grandchildren and great-grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 26, 2006 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary of

SOCORRO G. MADRID

of Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila
(d. October 24, 2005)

Masses will be offered at the following:

ST. JOSEPH PARISH, Gagalangin, Tondo	6:30 a.m.
MINOR BASILICA AND NATIONAL SHRINE OF SAN LORENZO RUIZ	6:00 a.m.
OUR LADY OF REMEDIES, Malate Catholic Church	6:00 a.m.
STA. CRUZ CHURCH, Manila	8:00 a.m.
MANILA METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL	12:10 n.n.
MINOR BASILICA OF THE BLACK NAZARENE	6:00 a.m.
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, Tayuman	6:00 a.m.
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, Bauan, Batangas	6:00 a.m.

Death Notice

SR. MARIA MANALAYSAY, MCST
of Malagasan, Imus, Cavite

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 22, 2006.

Her body lies in state at MCS Convent, MCST Compound, Tayabas, Quezon. Interment on October 25, 2006.

On the First Anniversary
of his Birth to Eternal Life

PGK ROMULO A. CORONEL

Knights of Columbus Council 7398
Most Holy Trinity Parish, Balic-Balic, Manila
December 17, 1944 – October 24, 2005

His family:
*Wife **Charito**,*
*Children **Reginald** and **Marie Paz Diano**,*
***Charissa** and **Rex Bernardo**,*
*Grandchildren **Czarina Mae, Rex Andre** and **Christine Meagan***
*together with **Mely Pilotin***

request relatives and friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for him today, October 24, 2006 at the following:

Most Holy Trinity Parish, Balic-Balic	*6:00 am and 6:00 pm*
St. Michael Church, Currimao, Ilocos Norte	*6:00 am*
St. Paul Metropolitan Cathedral, Vigan City	*6:00 am and 5:00 pm*
Shrine of Apo Lakay Campo Santo, Vigan City	*6:30 am*
Immaculate Heart of Mary Abbey of Fatima Pantay, Vigan City	*6:30 am*
St. Dominic of Guzman Parish Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur	*5:30 am*
Malate Catholic Church, Malate, Manila	*6:00 am*
Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Loreto Bustillos, Manila	*8:00 am*
St. Jude Archdiocesan Shrine San Miguel, Manila	*6:30 am*
Redemptorist Church, Baclaran, Pasay City	*6:30 am*
Manila Metropolitan Cathedral Basilica Intramuros, Manila	*7:30 am*
San Sebastian Parish, Quiapo, Manila	*7:00 am*
Mision delos Padres Capuchinos, Kanlaon, QC	*7:00 am*
Divine Word Missionary Seminary- Christ the King, E. Rodriguez, Sr., Quezon City	*6:00 am*
Parish of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary West Triangle, Quezon City	*6:30 am*
National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary Sto. Domingo Church, QC	*8:00 am*
Mount Carmel Shrine New Manila, Quezon City	*6:00 am*
Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish, Philam Homes, QC	*6:30 am*
Our Lady of Fatima, Cordillera, Quezon City	*6:30 am*

We miss you so much!!!

People, Events & Products

Lamoiyan helps save La Mesa Watershed

LAMOIYAN CORPORATION, MAKers of Hapee Toothpaste in partnership with the ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Kalikasan embarked in a tree-planting activity where some Lamoiyan employees planted seedlings at the La Mesa Watershed. The project is aimed at helping in the rehabilitation of the 1,500 hectares of denuded areas of the watershed through reforestation. The event signaled the beginning of a strong partnership between Lamoiyan Corporation and ABS-CBN Foundation. Lamoiyan Corporation employees including top company officials planted seedlings over an 8-hectare stretch of forest within the watershed's boundary. The participants hiked through the forested terrain to reach the designated area. The 2,700 hectare La Mesa Watershed is the last remaining forest of its size within Metro Manila. It's among the major sources of drinking water for the 12 million Metro Manila residents.

Job fair at Paseo Center

GAIT & PRANCE TALENTS AND EVENTS MANAGEMENT TAKES THE BIG leap in organizing an aggressive employment/career fair dubbed "Paseo Center Job Fest 2006". This Job Fair will open the doors to more and bigger opportunities to Filipino men and women to achieve financial stability, from local and overseas employment. This will be held at the activity area, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, from Oct. 26 to 28, 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. A wide array of the best multinational corporations among local and foreign industries will participate to conduct on-the-spot screening, interview and hiring. There will also be workshops on personality development, audio-visual presentations of different companies and a special promotional raffle. Major sponsors are Paseo Center, JobsDB.Com and Convergys. Official radio station is YES! FM. This job fair is approved by the Department of Labor and Employment. For inquiries, call 898-3247/255-8229/0916-2522089/0919-2426861.

MFI scholars graduation set

"MFI EXEMPLIFYING COMPETENCY AND EXCELLENCE IN TECHNICAL EDucation" is this year's graduation theme for the 21st batch of scholars of the MFI Technological Institute (formerly Meralco Foundation Institute). About 120 MFI students who successfully completed the three-year requirements for technical courses and the two-year requirements for information technology (IT) will take center stage during the 21st commencement exercises to be held on Oct. 24, 1:30 p.m. at the Teatro Aguinaldo in Quezon City. For this commencement exercise, Secretary of Education Jesli Lapuz will be the guest of honor and keynote speaker. Honor graduates will be awarded medals of excellence, while participating companies who sponsor scholars and those who admitted them for OJT (on-the-job training) will be awarded plaques of appreciation. MFI scholars are among the ranks of quality manpower, taught using a holistic training approach that combines skills development with values formation necessary for effective performance and productivity in the workplace. Statistics show that 90 percent of MFI graduates are employed even before they graduate.

Even for Kids, 'Bawal Magkasakit'

PREVENTION IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN CURE. THAT'S WHY CLUSIVOL with its "Bawal Magkasakit" campaign, has always been an advocate of good health for every Filipino. It aims to instill in every hardworking Filipino the idea that health is important in facing life's daily challenges, and remind them to take better care of themselves. These days, it's easier for anyone to get sick. Even young children can be easily affected by the many health threats in the environment. With this need in mind, Clusivol extends its "Bawal Magkasakit" battlecry to children through its newest Vitamin C supplement for kids--Clusivol Power C. Clusivol Power C answers the parents' wish to provide their children the kind of protection that Clusivol has been able to give them. Each dose of Clusivol Power C contains 100mg of Ascorbic Acid that gives kids 100% Vitamin C for 100% protection. Vitamin C helps prevent and treat ascorbic acid deficiency in children. It helps the body to resist infection by strengthening the immune system thus making the body tougher against diseases. With this new vitamin supplement, mothers can be assured that their child is safe from sickness, without overspending. To fit the budget of every mother in ensuring that kids are protected, Clusivol Power C is priced at P55.00 per 60 ml bottle. Give power to the children! Give them Clusivol Power C for a 100% Vitamin C, 100% protection. Clusivol Power C is available at leading drugstores nationwide.

EQ DRY DIAPERS IN BABY CO SYMPOSIUM

EQ Dry Diapers took part in the 'Baby Talk: Baby Care' symposium hosted by Baby Co, where participants were given a glimpse of total quality products for baby care available in the market today. EQ Dry Diapers were highlighted as the product that provides the best value to mommies. EQ Dry Diapers had a fun booth which had a nappy-changing room and a wheel of fortune game. Tintin Bersola-Babao and baby Antonia graced the event. Mommy Tintin also shared her practical tips on baby care and motherhood. And what tip could be more practical than to use EQ Dry Diapers? EQ Dry has overnight protection that keeps babies dry all night and has a soft cloth-like cover that prevents skin friction and irritation on baby's delicate skin. Its 100-percent breathable cover makes babies feel fresh all the time. Only EQ Dry Diapers both make mommy and baby happy. Get your EQ Dry Diapers today and experience the difference!

EQ Dry
EQ Dry

BUSINESS

Net borrowings 50% lower than target

Loans contracted in 9 mos. reached ₱489.3 billion, while debt payments hit ₱386.5 billion

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S nine-month net borrowings—the total fresh loans contracted less payments for maturing obligations—stood lower than the ceiling set for the period, as the improving fiscal climate gave it flexibility to service more liabilities than the level planned.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that net borrowings in January to September hit P102.792 billion, almost 50 percent lower than the P186.753 billion programmed for the period.

As of end September, some P489.334 billion worth of fresh loans were incurred, while P386.542 billion in maturing liabilities were paid.

The amount paid for maturing obligations was 54 percent higher than the P251.317 billion provided under the government's fiscal program for the first nine months of the year. The ability of the government to service more obligations than originally intended was on account of the growth in revenues.

The government's budget deficit hit only P50.4 billion as of end-September, much lower than the P122 billion ceiling officially set by fiscal authorities for the period. This prompted projections that the full-year deficit might hit only P100 billion, as against the ceiling of P125 billion.

The lower-than-programmed deficit in January to September was attributed to restrained spending due to the reenactment of the 2005 national budget and the higher-than-expected revenue collection.

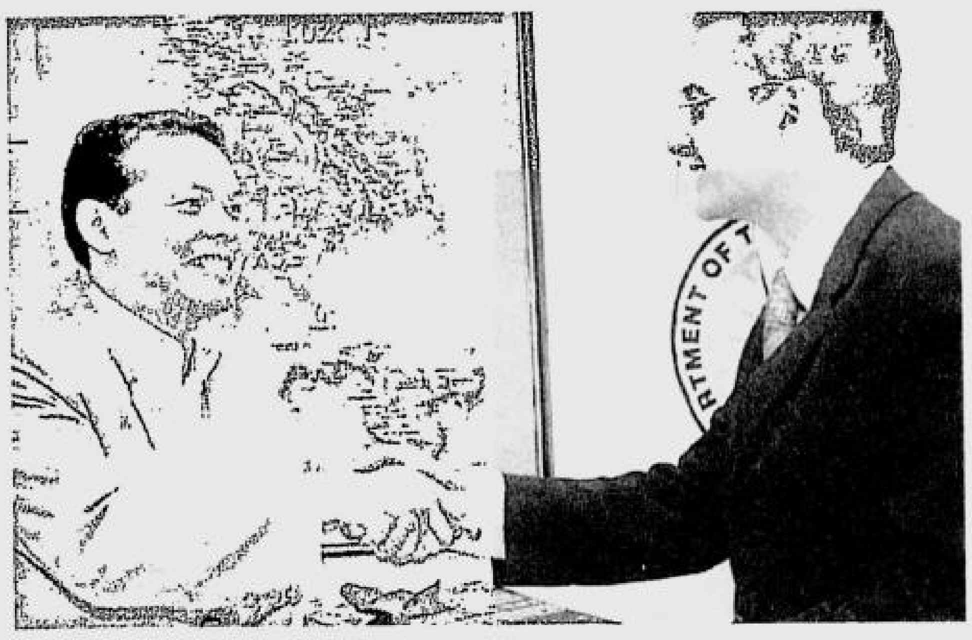
Of the total payment made in the first nine months, P338.94 billion went to foreign lenders while P47.557 billion was used to settle maturing domestic obligations.

The government wanted to reduce its foreign liabilities to the lowest possible level as soon as possible to minimize the country's exposure to foreign exchange risks.

Of the total gross borrowings during the nine-month period, P172.339 billion came from foreign creditors and government-securities investors, while P316.995 billion came from domestic sources of credit.

The government earlier adopted a policy that favors domestic borrowings and lessens the country's dependence on foreign borrowings.

The full-year gross borrowing program of P531.640 billion for 2006 has a borrowing mix of 58:42 in favor of domestic. This means that P310.211 billion will be borrowed from domestic sources and P221.429 billion will come from foreign lenders.



NEW ZEALAND Ambassador David Pine (right) receives from Tourism Secretary Joseph H. Durano (left) a copy of Welcome to the Philippines, a coffee table book on the major attractions in the country. The ambassador, during a recent visit to the DOT office, invited Durano to the New Zealand Trade Council Meeting to present the tourism department's marketing programs.

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2 hotel giants keen on RP retirement sector

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE HYATT AND HILTON GROUPS, TWO OF the world's largest hotel operators, are keen on investing in the country's retirement industry, according to Philippine Retirement Authority Chair Edgardo Aglipay.

Aglipay said he had met with Global Hyatt Corp. and Hilton Hotels officials during a promotional tour in the United States and that he was informed of the two groups' plan to send teams to the country to survey the market.

Aglipay and officials of the private-sector Philippine Retirement Inc. visited Honolulu, San Diego, Los Angeles, Kansas, Chicago, Fort Lauderdale and Washington DC to encourage Filipino-Americans and other US citizens to spend their retirement years in the Philippines.

PRA and PRI are into an aggressive campaign to make the Philippines the choice retirement destination in Asia.

"Officials (of the two hotel groups) are scheduled to visit in December or January to look at what resources are available here," he said.

Aglipay said PRA was offering to Hyatt and Hilton the resources of government-owned and -controlled entities, such as the Philippine Tourism Authority, Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., Bases Conversion Development Authority, Government Service and Insurance System and Social Security System.

"Many Fil-Ams have expressed interest in going back to the Philippines to retire here, but they fear that the facilities and services here may not be comparable to what are available in the US,"he said.

Aglipay said the prospective retirees had expressed concern over healthcare facilities not being modern; security issues; sub-standard public utilities, and being victimized by unscrupulous property developers and marketers.

Investors, for their part, are worried over uncertainties in policies and land ownership limits.

Aglipay said that to address these concerns, PRA and PRI were setting standards for housing, healthcare and other services; working with various agencies for better privileges and services for retirees as well as incentives for investors; getting more hospitals accredited with the Joint International Health Coalition and making lease contract a negotiable instrument.

There would be about a billion retirees worldwide by 2015 and the local industry hopes to convince a million of them to retire in the Philippines.

The Chicago-based Global Hyatt Corp. owns 215 hotels and resorts in 43 countries around the world.

Hilton Hotels Corp. has about 2,800 hotels in at least 80 countries, including Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa in Mactan Island.

GATEWAY Garden Heights

33-storey Bi-Level Residential Condominium
EDSA corner Pioneer Street
Mandaluyong City

Enjoy the Convenience OF LIVING BESIDE THE Mall

Nothing makes condo living a greater privilege than being beside everything you need. At Gateway Garden Heights, living, working and enjoyment are right at your doorstep. Enjoy Gateway Garden Heights' convenient location beside Robinsons Place Pioneer Mall. Strategically located along EDSA and MRT, this self-contained community is your gateway to prominent Business Districts like Ortigas, Makati and Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Get the most out of condo living. Enjoy the lifestyle community with all that you can have in Gateway Garden Heights.

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MRT
EDSA
JP RIZAL
TO ORTIGAS/CUBAO
MRT BONI STN
BONI
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October 29
10AM - 6PM
Gateway Garden Heights MODEL UNITS
4F Robinsons Place Pioneer Mall

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Mirant to release employees' 13th-month pay this week

By Abigail L. Ho

EVEN BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR and Employment can make its move, the management of Atlanta-based Mirant Corp., via the head of its Philippine operations, has committed to finalize its separation policy and release the 13th-month pay of employees this week.

"We have announced the new separation policy, which is easily one of the most generous in the Philippines, and we are just putting the finishing touches to it. It can't be done overnight since we have to follow internal processes and work on the details as well. But this a done deal," Mirant Philippines Corp. chair, president and chief executive Jose Leviste Jr. said.

Mirant Philippines corporate employee representatives Joyce Bellas, Maria Anna delos Reyes and Andres Boron last Friday filed three separate petitions urging the DOLE to intervene in a "potential labor dispute" related to the sale of the American firm's Philippine assets.

They claimed that the company's management failed to provide them with a definite program that would protect their interest once Mirant had sold its Philippine holdings.

Employees are seeking the formalization of a policy that will guarantee a severance pay of 2.5 months' salary for every year of service. While Mirant Philippines is already practicing this, there is no formal policy covering it.

Leviste said the formalization of the severance pay practice would take place within the week.

"Our separation policy will give 2.5 months for every year of service. A year's service is based on 14 months' salary plus short-term incentive bonus and a rice allowance. Therefore, the base for 2.5 months is exponentially higher than the law's requirement that it be based only on one month's salary," he said.

"Our employees are already getting the best there is. A few of them want more, including getting the separation pay while remaining employed and are using the $34-million package for 125 executives of Mirant all over the world as an example of racial discrimination," he added.

In their DOLE petitions, employees also accused Mirant of racial discrimination as it had committed to grant a $34-million bonus to 125 US employees for the sale of the American power firm's overseas assets.

But Leviste said this $34-million package was hinged on "heavy conditions including meeting certain price targets for the sale of businesses in and out of the US."

He said the executives should also stay with Mirant until June 2008.

"Zero payments will be made if the price targets and other conditions are not met. On the other hand, the local separation packages are virtually cast in stone," he said.

The employees also accused management of trying to pass its burden to the potential new owners of the company by refusing to release the employees' 13th-month pay, which was usually released every October.

Leviste said the employees 13th-month pay would be released within the week.

DBP sells bad assets worth ₱9.5B

By Doris C. Dumlao

STATE-OWNED DEVELOPMENT BANK OF the Philippines sold P9.56 billion worth of bad assets to a unit of US investment bank Lehman Brothers under the Special Purpose Vehicle framework.

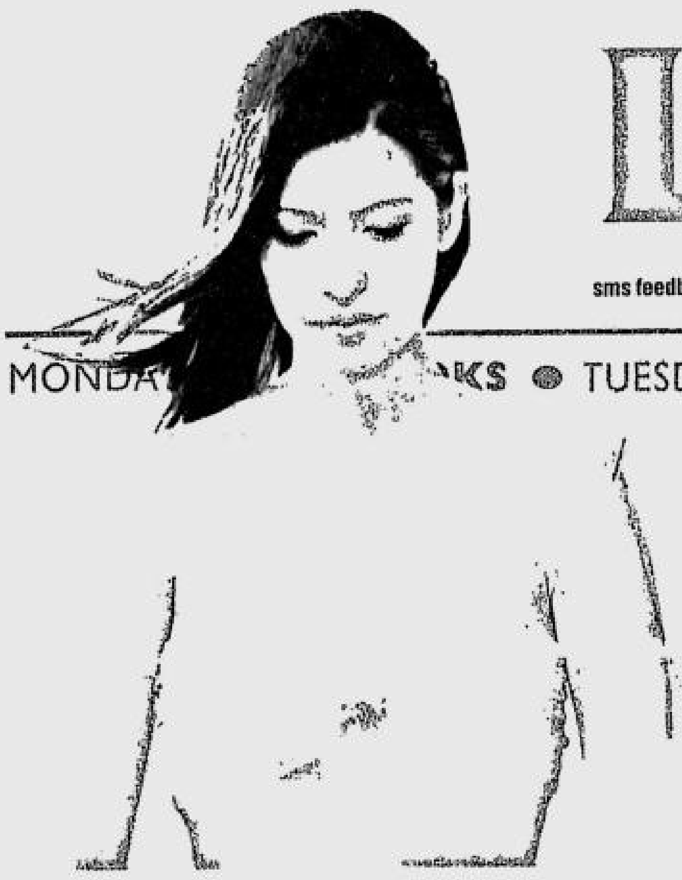
The deal, which was finalized after a bidding on Oct. 16, brought down the ratio of the bank's nonperforming assets to total assets to 1.92 percent from 8.45 percent, DBP president Reynaldo David said in a briefing yesterday.

Of the total assets unloaded, P5.8 billion consisted of nonperforming loans while real and other properties owned and acquired accounted for P3.7 billion.

David said he could not disclose the pricing of the deal but said the "values unlocked were much, much better than the pricing of bulk asset sales by Philippine financial institutions in the past."

The buyer, Lehman Brothers Asian Investments Ltd., manages portfolio in the Philippines, Korea, Japan, China and Indonesia.

Lehman Brothers has likewise earlier acquired bad assets unloaded by other local banks such as Equitable PCIBank and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.



LIFESTYLE
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Q & A on Vitamin C for the skin

IN THIS ISSUE

- **TINA Juan** on the right ways to breathe /C3
- **CORY Quirino** on lifting faces and lives /C4

THERE IS QUITE A NUMBER of skin lightening, skin rejuvenation, and anti-wrinkle products with Vitamin C in the market today. Vitamin C does have definite benefits for skin lightening, wrinkle reduction and skin rejuvenation. Here are the answers to frequently asked questions about using Vitamin C for the skin.

Why is Vitamin C good for the skin?

Vitamin C protects the skin's layers from damage caused by sun, smoke and aging. Older skin, in particular, may not get enough Vitamin C from the body's internal blood supply. Topical application to areas which need antioxidant protection is a good alternative.

How does Vitamin C act as an antioxidant?

Visible signs of aging like fine lines, wrinkles and age spots are caused by molecules known as free radicals.

They dramatically multiply with exposure to sun, tobacco smoke, air pollution and other environmental assaults, damaging skin cells and breaking down collagen that gives skin its youthful resilience. Vitamin C serves as an antioxidant by neutralizing free radicals.

Why is ordinary Vitamin C a poor choice?

Conventional vitamin C (ascorbic acid) is so unstable it oxidizes and becomes useless upon contact with water, heat and light. It degrades so rapidly that 90 percent of its potency is gone after the first month in a topical product. Ordinary Vitamin C goes right into the water component, where it doesn't stand a chance against oxidation. Once degraded, it has no more vitamin potency, on or off the skin.

Why use Vitamin C serum?

Vitamin C serum with at least 10 percent bioactive vitamin C won't irritate the skin the way ordinary acidic vitamin C does. It penetrates deeply through the tough epidermal barrier of the skin. It contains potent form of Vitamin C, so when you apply it, it sends concentrated stable Vitamin C directly to the skin.

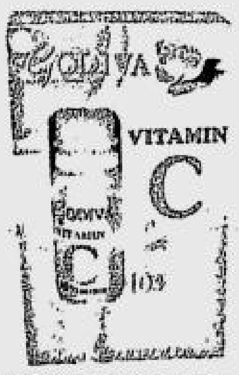
How do you get Vitamin C directly into the skin without degrading?

Look for products that contain uniquely stable bioactive form of Vitamin C that doesn't degrade rapidly. Godiva Vitamin C serum retains at least 90 percent of its Vitamin C activity for two years at room temperature. This means that consumers get the Vitamin C they expect, so it can penetrate the skin as Vitamin C, not in degraded form.

Can Vitamin C lighten skin?

A study on stabilized Vitamin C demonstrated that it can be effective for skin lightening when used at 10 percent concentration (Source: Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, January 1996, pages 29-33).

How do I get the most from Vitamin C serum?



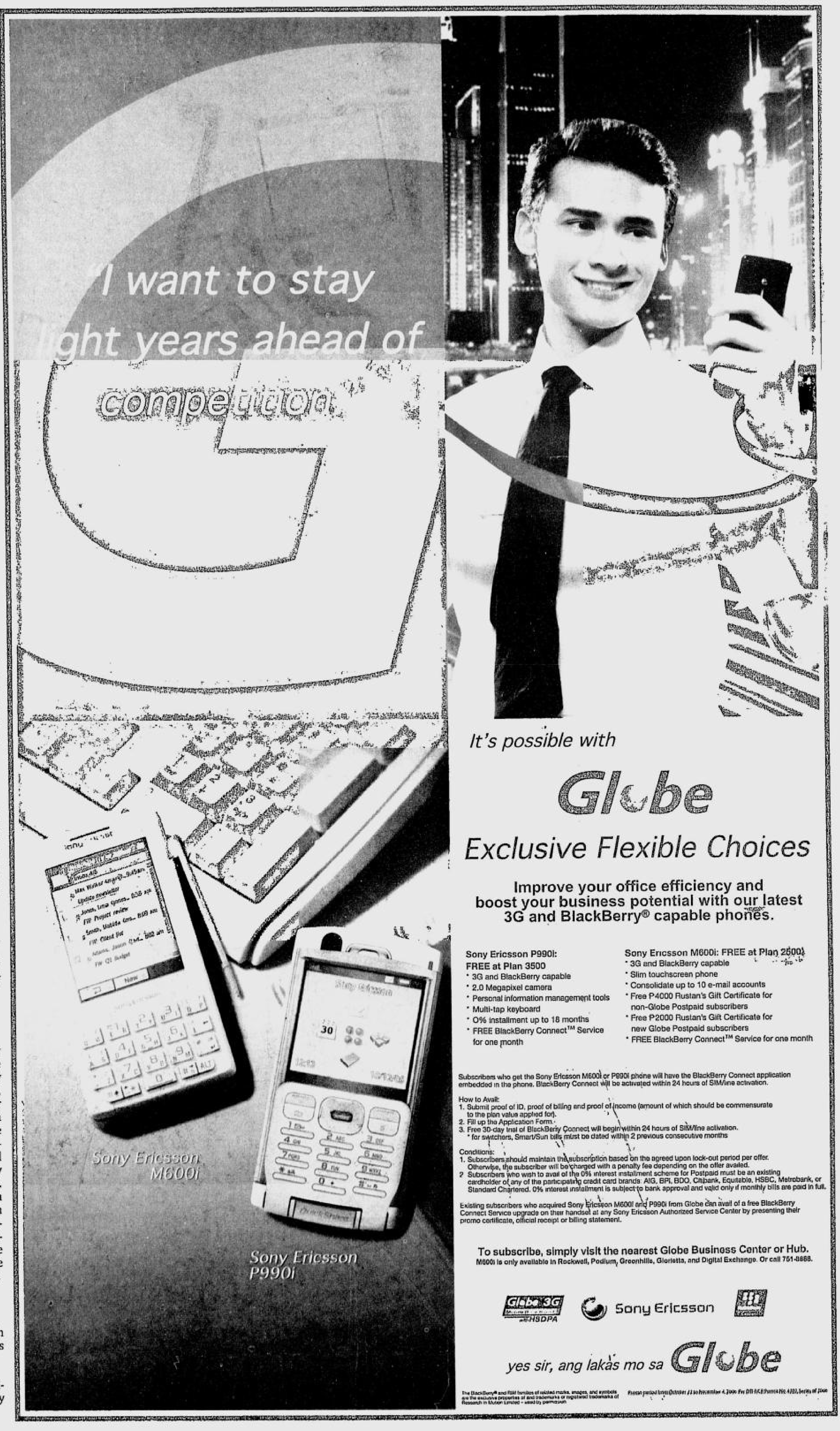
VITAMIN C Serum has at least 10 percent bioactive Vitamin C

Apply a few drops to clean face and neck. You may also apply on arms, hands, and other body parts. Vitamin C serum helps make sunblock more effective and should be part of your daily morning regimen. Regular exfoliation with AHA cream and monthly diamond peel treatment will enhance penetration of the serum into the skin.

Should I also take a Vitamin C supplement?

Yes. Taking Vitamin C orally helps your skin inside and out, while Vitamin C serum works from the outside in.

The new Godiva Vitamin C serum is available at Godiva Skin Station, Watson, Mercury Drug and other leading department stores.



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Promo period from October [illegible] to November 4, 2006. Per DTI-FTEB Permit No. [illegible], Series of 2006

CELEBRATOR Alex Van Hagen with: (front row) Baby de Jesus and Karen Macasaet; (middle row) Baby Ortiz, Tereret Liboro, Nene Leonor, Noni Basilio and Nini Licaros; (back row) Cristina Caedo, Chit Salud, Mabel Abaño and Mellie Ablaza

WITH THE HOSTESSES of the affair. (front row) Fanny Blanco, Tessie Amparo, consul of Monaco Fortune Aleta Ledesma, Letty Syquia, Dr. Elenita Binay, Alice Briones, Chit Gohu, Maricar Sobrepeña and Nini Layug; (second row) Celine Bautista, Olga Martel and Justa Tantoco

PHOTOS BY DINDO G

Not one but two parties for our resident party photographer

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using Kodak EasyShare system

EVERYONE'S *PALANGGA* AND in-demand, on-the-move, top ace photographer **Alex Van Hagen** has no time to celebrate his own birthday, so loads of his colleagues and loyal photo followers threw for him not one but two fun surprise parties, dahlings.

The first of the double-whammy happenings took place at the posh, upscale Manila Golf Club at Forbes Park, Makati, with two of our town's hostesses with the mostest, **Nene Leonor** and **May Neri**, leading the coterie of charitable ladies as hosts, namely **Mabel Abaño, Noni Basilio, Cristina Caedo, Baby de Jesus, Baby Ortiz, Nini Licaros, Karen Macasaet, Fe Rodriguez** and **Chit Salud**, all civic-minded women of substance, *palanggas*.

Three days later, another equally memorable fun birthday bash for Alex was held at the fantastic, huge home of the adorable **Tereret Tambunting Liboro**, with the help of Alex's loyal followers, like the grand hostess of the affair, **Letty Syquia; Justa Tantoco, Fortune Ledesma, Tessie Amparo, Chit Gohu, Alice Briones, Dr. Elenita Binay**, no less; **Celine Bautista, Fanny Blanco, Nini Layug** and **Maricar Sobrepeña**, plus tons of other pals from different charitable institutions.

All the gals lent glamour to the affair and made our man of the hour's afternoon especially unforgettable. Alex Van Hagen could not have been happier at the surprise birthday treats from these beloved women who counted and photographed well in his book of memories, *palanggas*.

Famous Lion

A well-known lion roared its way into town, *palanggas*, when tall, dashing **Raj Nagra**, international Bacardi ambassador, a.k.a. Bacardi Lion, gave us a taste of the world-renowned rum. The Australian-based Raj jetted into town as part of a series of seminars to demonstrate to bartenders and booze connoisseurs how to properly make cool cocktails. On the last night, we had a chance to taste Bacardi favorites like the increasingly popular Mojito, which *moi* first tried in Cuba, *palanggas*, and the winner Bacardi Cuba Libre. We also received tips on how to mix a perfect cocktail concoction.

The alcoholically educational night inevitably turned into a scene of Bacardi heat! The fun bash was superbly presented by Future Trade International, exclusive distributor of Bacardi in the country. The event was excellently hosted by People & Parties' absolutely handsome newcomer **Carlo Sumayao**. Circulating like forever was Bacardi controller **Rajiv Ghumann**, Future Trade sales and marketing director **Yogi Wringler**; marketing manager **Kat San Diego** and managing directors **James Du Vivier** and **Antonio Villaseñor**, *palanggas*.

Piña Colada, Bacardi Breeze and Daiquiri were also all present and accounted for, dahlings. From that point on,' it was an endless night of motion and up-tempo drinks, presented by none other than Bacardi, *natch*!

Sweet reading

Super achiever sisters **Penk Ching** and **Shen Ratilla** of the renowned Pastry Bin, launched their fab coffee-table book "Caked in Sugar" at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila, *palanggas*. The book is illustrated with the fabulous cakes that Penk C. and Shen R. have created for tons of top social events in the country, including the weddings of **Fernando and Kit Silverio Zobel**, as well as presidential offsprings **Jackie Ejercito** (to **Beaver Lopez**) and **Mikey Arroyo** (to **Angela Montenegro**) and **Dato Arroyo** (to **Cacay Manotok**).

The book launch was superbly organized by Rita Neri, and directed and hosted by **Freddie Santos. Robert Blancaflor** of 1816 created the stunning setting of American red roses at the foyer, while **Jun Hen** of D' Flower Façade had the main hall abloom with yellow tulips. The centerpiece eye-catcher was the awesome giant sugar rendition of a Chinese pagoda and four magnificent theme cakes, created by Penk and Shen, *naturellement*.

Guests included happily married, gorgeous Pastry Bin brides like **Lala Sotto de Leon, Andrea Bautista-Yñares, Audrey Tan Zubiri, Tootsy Echauz-Angara, Grace Barbers-Baja, Ana de Borja-Prats** and **Kat Tiu**. Hot, hot namedroppables included **Robin Sy, Elvira Chan, Chung Tiong Tay**, Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce president **Francis Chua**; industrialist **Lucio Tan**'s wife, vivaciously adorable **Carmen**; fashion designer [illegible] *palangga*, **Frederick Peralta**; [illegible] stylist **Rachy Cuna**, young newspaper publisher **Emil Yap III**, Philippine Tatler's **Chit Lijauco**, The Plaza's **Millie Reyes**, fellow cake artist **Heny Sison**, Bulgari's main man, workasonic **Mario Katigbak**; and Peninsula Manila's beautiful first couple, **David Batchelor** and wife **Marilou Toda B.**, plus other sweet tooths like them.

Check out "Caked in Sugar" coffee-table book, at all PowerBooks and selected National Book Store outlets. It's sugar and spice and everything nice, *palanggas*.

LETTY Santos, Ising Madrigal Vasquez, Baby Cruz; (standing) Erli Gamboa, Vicky Assad, Pacita de Guzman, Nene Leonor and Dr. Danny Vasquez

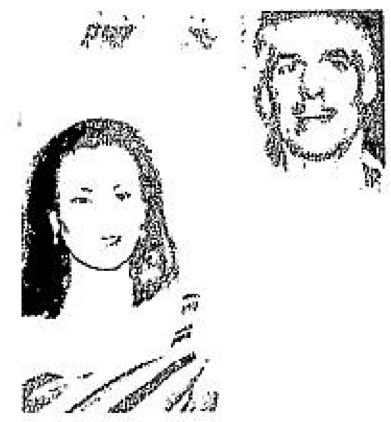
ALEX with Maurice A., Visions and Expressions' Susan Joven, Ogie Rodriguez and Robert Castañeda

MAY Neri and Grace Tiongco

BACARDI brand controller Rajiv Ghumann and the dashing Bacardi ambassador Raj Nagra

ABSINTH'S Chacha Abatayo and eye-catching Christine San Diego

PUBLICIST Philip Abadicio and Future Trade's Myleen Tobias



ARCHITECT Anna Sy and Steve Lawrence

HEY, good-looking. Apples Sotto with Gian and Joy Sotto

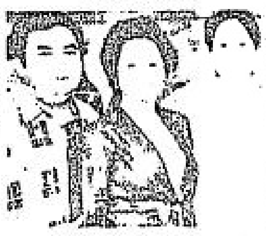
SWEET sisters Penk Ching and Shen Ratilla with their book "Caked in Sugar"

GILDA Salonga, Shirley Uy and Ruby Tuazon

MONETTE Guevara and Lucille Villanueva

SISTERS Letty Santos Bonoan and Fe Santos Rodriguez

DIANA Go



RESTY Vergara, Lovely Romulo and Bobby Novenario

Join Enchanted Kingdom's Spooky Halloween Gathering on October 28! Wear a full costume and you can come in for free*, plus star
Ilocandia! There will also be a Spooktakular Fireworks display on October 28 and 29 at 9pm. So gear up and get ready to scream!

*Free entrance via a Carousel Special Pass for guests above 48" (Pay Php 450.00 to upgrade to General Admission Pass). Child Day Pass for guests 36" to 47" in he
your Day Pass. See posters for details. Per DTI-Laguna Permit No. S-09-398, Series of 2006. Enjoy the park from 10am-7pm on Wednesdays to Fridays, and 10am

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Two ways to be fooled

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

> Strange but true events are normally and routinely ignored by established science and the academe

RECENTLY, A GROUP of students from a well-known private college for women in Quezon City called me in connection with a research paper they were doing on telekinesis.

They had heard of my course on ESP (extra sensory perception) that covered telekinesis, among other psychic abilities.

Their teacher, who did not believe in "such psychic stuff," told the students to look up a certain website on the Internet about an offer of US$1 million to anyone who could prove telekinesis (or any other psychic powers, like telepathy, clairvoyance, etc.) was true.

They asked if I was aware of such a website. I told them I was aware of such an offer but had not seen the website. They must be referring to the challenge American magician James Randi (who calls himself the Great Randi) made to anyone who could prove that telekinesis was true.

I told the students not to pay attention to James Randi because he was just a de-bunker of psychic phenomena. When somebody comes up to prove telekinesis, Randi changes the rules. Randi always finds loopholes so that, in the end, he concludes nothing has been proven.

For years, Randi hounded and harassed well-known Israeli psychic Uri Geller, saying he was nothing but a fake psychic, that it was not true Geller could bend metallic spoons, keys and rings with his mind alone, despite numerous public demonstrations that the psychic was able to do so.

After years of ignoring and trying to get away from Randi, Geller finally fought back. He filed a harassment suit against Randi and won.

The court ordered Randi not to come within a specified distance from Geller or he would be arrested. Randi was also asked to pay Geller a certain amount for all the mental torture and emotional trouble he caused.

Although Randi was forced to stop harassing Geller, the court order did not include other people. So Randi still manages to harass those who believe in psychic phenomena. He heads a small but noisy group called the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (PSICOP) and publishes the Skeptical Inquirer, the main purpose of which is to show that those who believe in such things are nuts!

However, serious academic and scientific researchers like Dr. Robert Jahn of Princeton University; Dr. Russell Targ, formerly with the Stanford Research Institute, among others, simply ignore the antics and wild accusations of Randi.

At Princeton University's Anomalous Phenomena Department, for example, engineer Robert Jahn and psychologist Brenda Dunne have been quietly researching telekinesis for the last 15 or 20 years. They have proved, under strict laboratory conditions, that telekinesis exists. They did this by having subjects influence the fall of the dice on a roulette machine using only the power of their thoughts. They meticulously calculated the mathematical probabilities to show whether this was purely by chance or if it was influenced by their minds.

The two wrote a pioneering book, "Margins of Reality," detailing the methodology they used and the results they obtained. Every skeptic should read this book before he/she opens his/her mouth regarding the reality of telekinesis.

I am not really interested in proving to skeptics that psychic powers and paranormal phenomena exist. This is not my job or my intention. I only want to share with interested people and readers strange but true events that are normally and routinely ignored by established science and the academic community.

Psychologist Gertrude R. Schmeidler of the City College of New York conducted a series of studies on the relationship between ESP and personality traits way back in 1975.

She divided people into two classes. Those who believed in ESP she called "sheep." This group scored higher in ESP tests. Those who did not believe in ESP she called "goats." This group did poorly in ESP tests. Randi definitely is a "goat" and thinks like one.

I told the students it was good to maintain a healthy skepticism, not to accept at face value everything a person told them, but to verify everything. This way they might learn something their teacher would never learn because she kept her mind closed to the true nature of reality.

As I have often said here, according to philosopher Soren Kierkegaard, "There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what is not true; the other is to refuse to believe what is true."

More breathing techniques

Part two

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

> When all else fails, just breathe. Don't hold your breath for any length of time

STAND IN FRONT OF A MIRROR AND TAKE a deep breath. If you sucked your stomach in and stuck your chest out with your shoulders raised, you just did "high chest" breathing, which is considered the most inefficient way to breathe because you don't use the lower two-thirds of your lungs.

Shallow chest breathing means less energy during exercise because you get less air per breath. It results in becoming breathless and fatigued before the workout is over.

It is also connected to stress in a "vicious cycle" relationship. Stress triggers rapid shallow breathing, which causes blood vessels to constrict and blood pressure to rise, which in turn makes you feel more agitated and stressed.

The same goes for conditions like asthma. An asthma attack sets off shallow breathing, which then makes the asthma worse.

Diaphragmatic breathing

This is the most relaxed and natural form of breathing. You should be using this technique when you walk, run, cycle, swim, and do aerobic classes. This is also the type of breathing used in tai chi and yoga. It is also known as belly breathing, soft stomach breathing, and low breathing.

The diaphragm is a muscle-tendon combination that separates your heart and lungs from the organs in your abdominal cavity. It looks like an upside-down bowl.

When you inhale, your diaphragm pulls downward to give your lungs room to expand. It helps create a sort of vacuum in the lungs so air can rush in. When you exhale, it releases upward to help compress the lungs and expel the air out.

The abdomen expands outward slightly when you inhale and the diaphragm pushes downward. The abdomen deflates or pulls in toward the spin when you exhale and the diaphragm is pushed upward. If you watch a baby sleeping, you will see the gentle rise and fall of the abdomen.

If you are not sure how to properly use your diaphragm, lie down and place something heavy like a 3- to 5-kilo bag of rice on your upper abdomen. The bag should move upward when you inhale and downward when you exhale. This exercise is also good for strengthening the diaphragm. In yoga, it is called sandbag breathing.

Ribcage breathing

This is a hallmark of Pilates and is also known as lateral breathing and intercostals breathing. There are some yoga teachers who say this is the true diaphragmatic breathe. The chest and lower abdomen are kept still and only the ribcage and diaphragm do the work. The ribcage expands sideways like an accordion.

The purpose is to stabilize and protect your spine while you are in different exercise positions by holding your abdominal muscles tight but still allowing you to take in enough air by expanding the ribcage laterally. It is also highly useful when you are wearing a tight outfit and you want to maintain "flat abs" without turning blue.

Here's how to practice lateral breathing: Snugly double wrap a long sash around your ribcage. Lie on your back with your knees bent. You should feel your ribs trying to expand sideways when you inhale. Next, balance a plastic ball on your lower abdomen. The ball shouldn't move or fall off when you inhale or exhale.

Cadence breathing

This technique is also known as measured breathing and the "walking breath" in yoga. It is used in rhythmic exercise like walking, running, cycling and swimming. Doing it the yoga way, silently count out your inhalations and exhalations and match them with the number of steps you take. For example, inhale for four steps and exhale for four steps. This is called 4:4 breathing. It can turn a walk into "moving meditation." Variations used in running or cycling:

- 2:2 (during relaxed running, inhale for two steps, exhale for two)
- 2:1 (when running hard or fast)
- 3:2 (during relaxed running, alternate the foot you inhale on)

A side stitch or a sharp pain in the upper abdomen may be caused by a spasm in the ligaments that attach your liver to your diaphragm. Since the liver is on the right side of your body, cadence breathing on the left foot may help. Focus on belly breathing and exhale when your left foot strikes the ground.

Strength training

When lifting weights, the basic rule is to exhale on the exertion or the hardest part.

- When doing pushing exercises like a bench press, exhale when you thrust the bar away from you.
- When doing pulling exercises like a lat-pulldown, exhale when you pull toward you.
- When doing body weight exercises like a push-up or squat, exhale when you lift your body away from the floor.
- When doing abdominal crunches, exhale when you flex your spine.

Just breathe

If all these rules make you dizzy, just remember the cardinal rule: When all else fails, just breathe. Don't hold your breath for any length of time. As runners say, "Breathe through your nose. Breathe through your mouth. Breathe through your ears, if you can."

Note: Yoga Manila will hold classes by Ashtanga Master Teacher Paul Dallaghan (he is a direct student of Ashtanga founder Sri K. Pattabhi Jois) Oct 24- 26. Call 0917-522-YOGA or e-mail yogamanila@gmail.com.

The Art of Living will hold a six-day seminar on breathing to relieve stress Nov. 6-11 and Nov. 27-Dec. 2. Cost is P3,000. Call Nameeta at 0917-7910190 or e-mail aol_philippines@yahoo.com.

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HDI Network Polifrez is a gel toothpaste combining the beneficial properties of bee propolis and tea tree oil for complete care for your teeth and gums. Its unique formula is designed to help control the buildup of tartar and plaque while providing long-lasting fresh breath.

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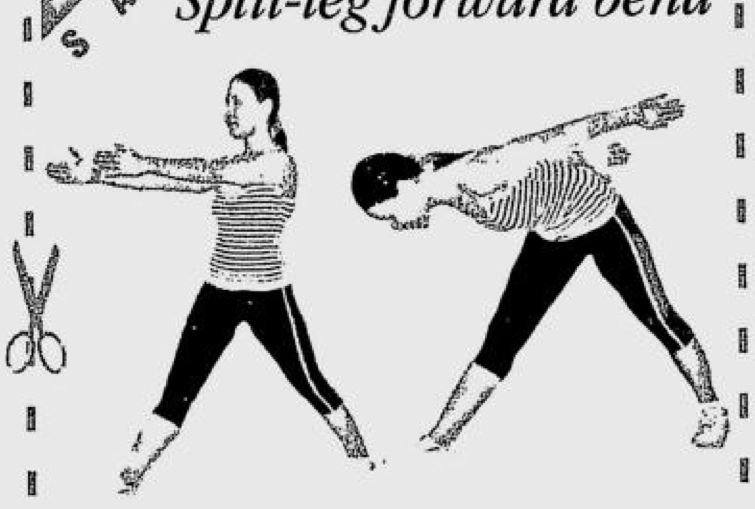
CLIP & SAVE

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Split-leg forward bend



THIS EXERCISE STRETCHES THE BACK OF the legs and the lower back.

Equipment

None

Exercise technique

1. Stand with legs apart in a split stance. Both feet should be facing forward. Arms should be in front at shoulder level.
2. Bend forward and swing your arms backward.
3. Hold the stretch for the desired length of time.
4. To come up safely, press your feet into the floor to stabilize your legs.

Performance tips

1. Narrow or widen your stance by adjusting your back leg if you feel you need less or more of a stretch.
2. If you have adequate flexibility in your hamstrings, lower your head down toward your toes to feel the stretch in the lower back.
3. Bend your front knee if you feel pressure at the back of the knee joint,
4. Easier: Place your hands on your front leg for greater stability.
5. Harder: Clasp your hands behind your back.

Repetitions

Hold the stretch for at least 10 seconds.

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spooky HALLOWEEN GATHERING

e in your spookiest Halloween costume and get in absolutely free*.

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pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Park will be open on October 24, 30 and 31 from 10am to 7pm.

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Wild yam for facial lift

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

IS THERE AN ULTIMATE to-do list that ensures optimum benefits? Unfortunately, there is none.

But the good news is, health and beauty regimens evolve with every new discovery.

Here are some things worth considering to help you in your journey on the road to wellness.

Natural hormones

Balance is the state of wellness that the body seeks to "feel right."

Hormones play an important role keeping this balance. Secretions of the endocrine system, hormones regulate the body and are responsible for a series of functions in the creation of life, growth and development; reproduction, aging, emotions and human behavior.

Without balance, the human body is at risk of invasion from bacteria, viruses, etc. Hormonal imbalance can manifest in various forms: Pimples, insomnia, indigestion, osteoporosis, pigmentation, hot flashes, cold sweat, moodiness, frequent urination, etc.

With the growing controversy surrounding HRT (hormone replacement therapy), people have turned to natural hormone therapy.

Biological medicine now introduces Dioscorea Villosa or wild yam. This yam contains 50 hormone precursors.

The elements help activate hormones to self-balance, assisting the body to achieve stability. Boosted by aloe vera, glycine soya protein, vitamin E and grape seed extract, this product, called Lumiglow, has an anti-aging effect.

In one demonstration, after applying the cream to the right side of the arm, an immediate subtle face lift effect was seen on one side of the face.

When applied on the other side, the effect on the face was balanced making it look rested. Call AIGS, Joey Aranal or Marivic, 0917-8080477.

Greatest lift of all

There isn't a lift as great as the one you give yourself. A gift that comes from the inside, it's nothing more than positive, uplifting self-talk.

Some call it prayer, others meditation or affirmation, however you wish to look at it, it's one and the same. An attempt to connect with the spirit can be the best lift of all.

And, if done on a regular basis, it can only give you one benefit—centered-ness of heart and mind that can only lead to reverse aging. Mysterious but true.

Make it a practice to have a quiet time each day. It is not only our body that thirsts, our soul does, too.

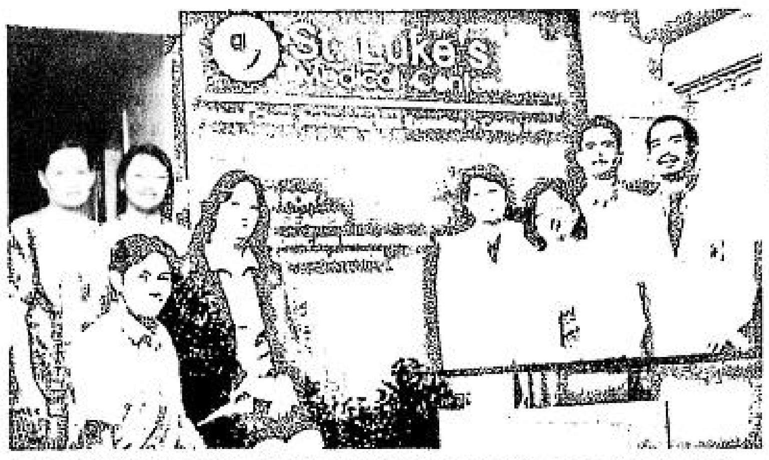
Beauty regimen

Crush one red tomato. Remove the seeds. Rub lightly on dry parts of your body. This should soften it after two minutes. Rinse.

Affirmation

"I exude peace in all I do."

Love and light!



PACESETTER. The St. Luke's Center for Liver Diseases, headed by Dr. Juliet Gopez-Cervantes (third from right), sets the pace in the country's fight against hepatitis and other forms of liver disorders through various high impact and pioneering scientific programs and breakthroughs. Besides Gopez-Cervantes, the team consists of (from left) radiologic technologists Yani R. Olaguer and Jonaleen I. Amil, research assistant Ryan S. Ellorin, transplant program coordinator Dinah O. Caballes, chief of the liver transplant service Dr. Rose Marie Rosete-Liquete, liver transplant surgeon Dr. Wilfredo Polido, Jr. and assistant head Dr. Joseph Bocobo.

Fighting bone disease

LIFE-TO-THE-MAX IS an anti-osteoporosis program that aims to increase awareness of the problem among Filipinos and to encourage seniors, even if they have osteoporosis, to live life to the fullest.

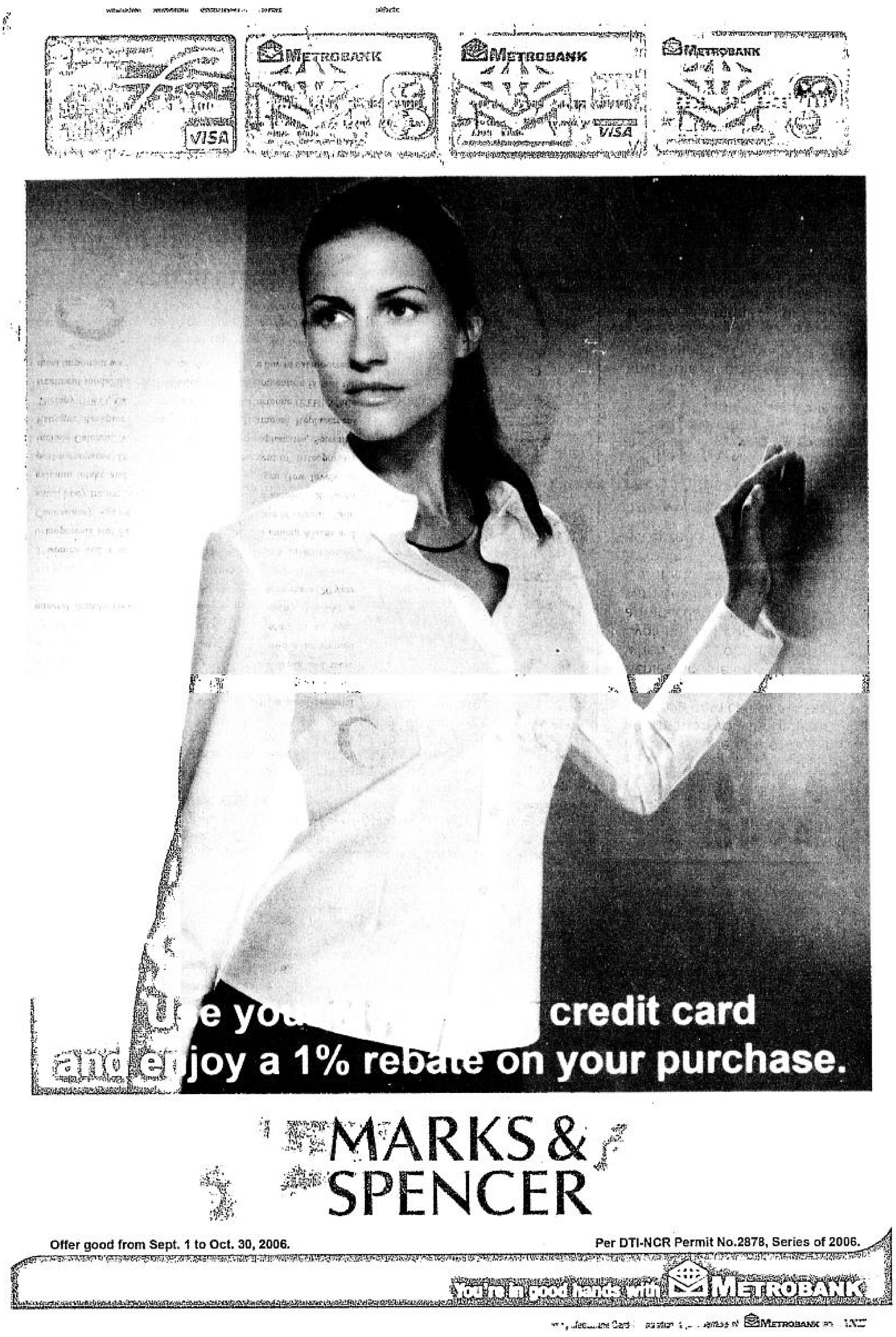
The program was launched recently by pharmaceutical company Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD), with the Osteoporosis Society of the Phils. Foundation.

The advocacy also encourages women in their senior years to seek effective medical treatment for osteoporosis.

Osteoporosis Day was observed around the world last Oct. 20.

Women at risk of osteoporosis and who may not be getting enough Vitamin D should consult their physicians. They may ask about a new treatment for osteoporosis that combines the bone-building medicine alendronate with Vitamin D. The combination helps meet the problem of Vitamin D insufficiency.

Call 8786338 or, toll-free, 1-800-1-888-6737.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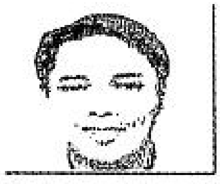

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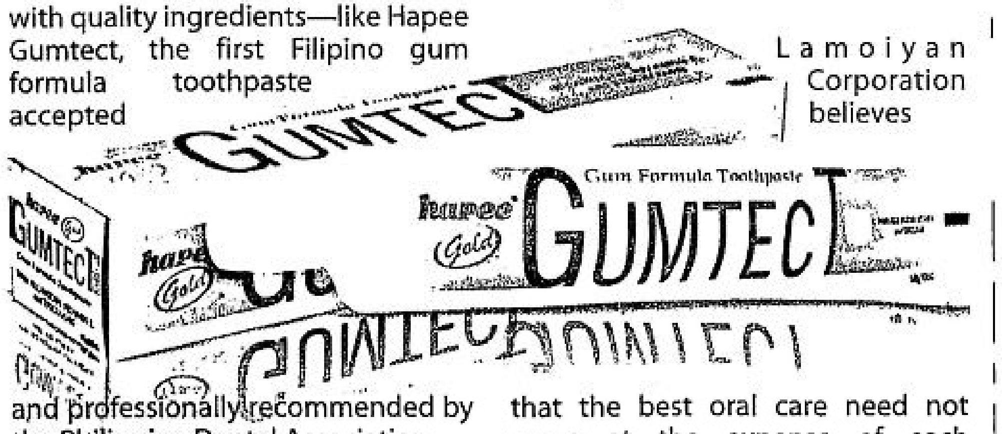
What is osteoporosis and how does one develop it?

Osteoporosis literally means "porous bone". It is a multi-factorial skeletal disorder where a person, usually the elderly, gradually loses bone tissue. Their bones gradually become less dense and more fragile, resulting to fractures or breaks. Osteoporosis is determined by the World Health Organization (WHO) according to the bone mineral density (BMD) as measured by Densitometry (DEXA): a BMD of 2.5 Standard Deviations below the peak bone mass (20 year old person standard) is considered osteoporosis. It affects 1 in every 3 women and 1 in every 8 men. The risk factors in developing osteoporosis are: *Family* history; *Race* (common among Asians and Caucasians); *Age* over 50; *Continued* long-term use of steroid; Thin, small body frame; *Use* of cigarettes or too much alcohol; *Reduced* calcium intake and physical activity, and *Estrogen* (low levels) in post-menopause. Drugs available for the treatment of osteoporosis include Calcium, Vitamin D, Calcitriol, Bisphosphanates, Selective Estrogen Receptor Modulators (SERMs), Hormonal Replacement Therapy (HRT), Calcitonin, and Parathyroid Hormone (PTH). While treatment modalities are becoming available, *prevention* is still the most important way to reduce the risk of fracture due to osteoporosis.

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our five-year medical service provider from Batangas, Dr. Larry Mejia Montano. He specializes in Orthopedic Surgery. He finished his medicine degree at the University of Sto. Tomas in 1996 and later took his specialization training for Orthopedic Surgery at Philippine Orthopedic Center in 2001. He is a member of Tanauan City Medical Society and associate member of the Philippine Orthopedic Association. MEDICARD members may visit him in his clinic at Daniel Mercado Medical Center during Wednesdays & Fridays from 9am to 1pm and Tuesdays & Thursdays 1pm-5pm. While in Mary Mediatrix Medical Center during Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays from 9am -1pm and Wednesdays & Fridays 1pm -5pm.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky



When Gum Care Need Not Be a Budget Scare

If there's one important piece of information you should know about effective gum care, it's the fact that it doesn't have to be expensive. Achieving healthy gums is easy when you observe proper oral hygiene and complement this with an affordable product that's loaded with quality ingredients—like Hapee Gumtect, the first Filipino gum formula toothpaste accepted and professionally recommended by the Philippine Dental Association.

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Lamoiyan Corporation believes that the best oral care need not come at the expense of each Filipino's budget. This is why the company made a conscious effort to keep the price of Hapee Gumtect at budget-friendly rates to make it affordable for everyone. Hapee Gumtect is reasonably priced because it costs much less than imported brands. In fact, Hapee Gumtect costs less than your average fast food fare! Peso for peso, Hapee Gumtect truly delivers adequate gum care that counts.

LAMOIYAN CORPORATION
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde
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or email us at pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Thank you, Binoe

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

KUDOS TO GMA FILMS AND VIVA FILMS for producing "Till I Met You," the film outfits' first project together. It raked in a whopping P6.4 million during its opening day and may surpass the P100 million mark in its entire run.

The **Regine Velasquez-Robin Padilla** magic carried over to the launch of the movie's soundtrack (under Indimusic), which contains the Songbird's version of "Fallen," "Don't Go," "Mangarap Ka" by **Dennis Trillo** and "Alipin" (duet with Binoe), among others. Regine was in her element during the launch.

NO RIVALS. Barbie and Kitchie are set to perform in a back-to-back concert.

She cajoled the audience to enclose P20 in their request slips. The crowd played along. Some sent P1,000 bills and even yen!

Binoe sang live and Regine kept teasing him because, for the first time, he wasn't off-key. **Ogie Alcasid** (whom Regine fondly calls "Mr. President" because he's president of I-music and she's the VP/treasurer) and **Janno Gibbs** joined them onstage. They brought the house down with their comical rendition of "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?" I was touched when Regine mentioned my mom's name. "Pardon my bedroom voice. *Ka-boses ko na si* Ate Luds **(Inday Badiday)**."

She still has a sore throat after singing her heart out during her 20th anniversary concert. But that didn't stop her from giving her all at the launch.

What touched me even more was when Binoe approached me. It's been ages since our "secret romance" hit the headlines and things turned sour between us. Shortly after the controversy broke out, he got incarcerated.

At my mom's wake, Binoe and I ignored each other. My friends told me that while I was crying hysterically by my Ma's casket, Binoe was watching from afar. How melodramatic indeed! But our "silent peace pact" at the launch was light and easy. No words were spoken. Just a tight handshake.

THANK/ D2

> My friends told me that while I was crying by my Ma's casket, Binoe was watching from afar

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1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
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1 40, 4.30, 7:15, 10:00
2 THE BANQUET
MTRCB PG-13
1 15 3 55 6.35 9 30
3 BARNYARD
MTRCB GP 12 50 2 50, 4:50
THE DEPARTED
MTRCB R-13 6.50 10:00
4 THE GUARDIAN
MTRCB PG-13
1 00, 4.00, 7.00 10 00
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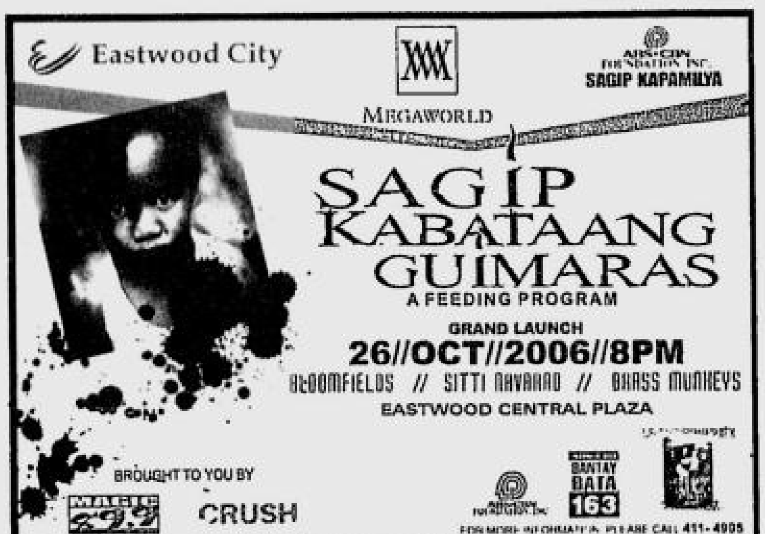

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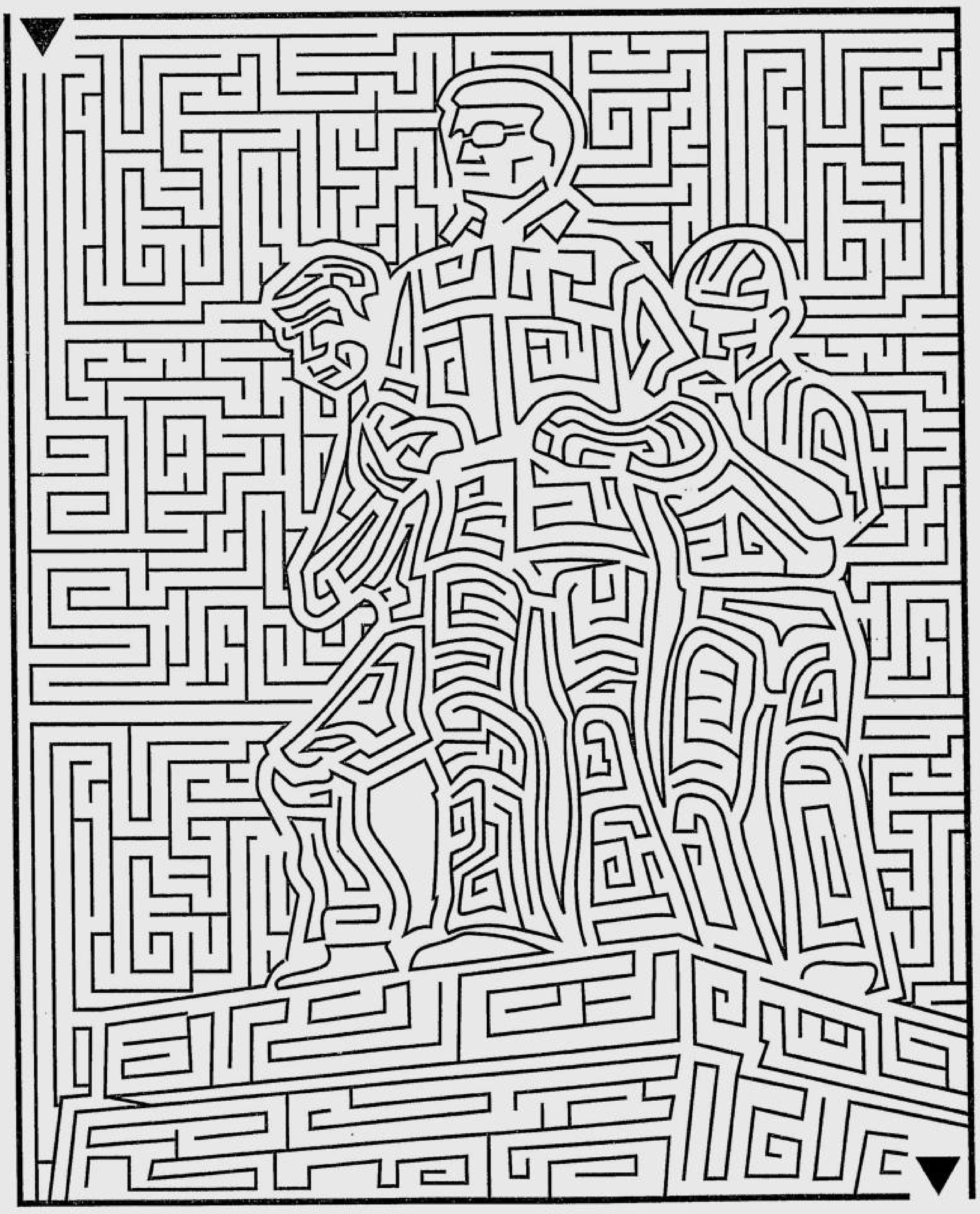
2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40
PG-13
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
12:10, 2:55, 5:40, 8:25, 11:00
PG-13
3 THE DEPARTED 1:55, 8:15 R-13
THE GUARDIAN 5:20, 11:20 PG-13
4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13



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stick it
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Written and Directed by
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2. THE GUARDIAN
3. THE DEPARTED
4. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
5. BARANG
6. TILL I MET YOU

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TXT

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CINEMA 2
THE GUARDIAN
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1. THE BANQUET
2. TILL I MET YOU
3. THE DEPARTED
4. WORLD TRADE CENTER
5. TXT
6. WORLD TRADE CENTER
7. THE GUARDIAN
8. MGY FIRST WEDDING
9. PULSE
10. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
11. BARANG
12. TILL I MET YOU

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1. THE BANQUET
2. BARNYARD
3. PHILIPPINE IDOL
4. THE GUARDIAN
5. MY FIRST WEDDING
6. WORLD TRADE CENTER
7. BARANG
8. ANNAPOLIS
9. TXT
10. TILL I MET YOU
11. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
12. THE DEPARTED

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1. DEAD OR ALIVE
2. FIRST DAY HIGH
3. PULSE
4. WORLD TRADE CENTER
5. BARANG
6. THE BANQUET
7. THE GUARDIAN
8. TILL I MET YOU
9. TXT
10. THE DEPARTED
11. MY FIRST WEDDING
12. EMPLOYFF OF THE MONTH

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1. WORLD TRADE CENTER
2. THE BANQUET
3. TXT
4. BARANG
5. TILL I MET YOU
6. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
7. THE GUARDIAN
8. MY FIRST WEDDING
9. THE DEPARTED
10. PULSE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1. WORLD TRADE CENTER
2. THE GUARDIAN
3. THE BANQUET
4. BARANG
5. TXT
6. TILL I MET YOU

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1. WORLD TRADE CENTER
2. TILL I MET YOU
3. TXT
4. DEAD OR ALIVE
5. BARANG
6. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
7. THE GUARDIAN
8. BARNYARD
9. THE BANQUET

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1. WORLD TRADE CENTER
2. TXT
3. TILL I MET YOU
4. THE BANQUET

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1. THE BANQUET
2. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
3. PULSE
4. MY FIRST WEDDING
5. THE GUARDIAN
6. WORLD TRADE CENTER
7. BARANG
8. FIRST DAY HIGH
9. TILL I MET YOU
10. THE DEPARTED
11. DEAD OR ALIVE
12. TXT

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323301-04

1. PULSE
2. TXT
3. BARANG
4. TILL I MET YOU

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2. TILL I MET YOU
3. TXT
4. BARANG

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1. BARANG
2. TXT
3. TILL I MET YOU
4. WORLD TRADE CENTER

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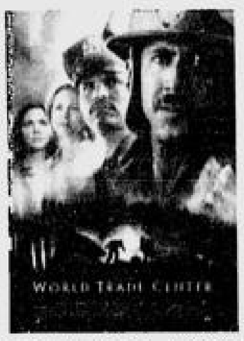

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2. PULSE
3. WORLD TRADE CENTER
4. BARANG
5. TXT
6. TILL I MET YOU
7. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
8. THE BANQUET

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1. THE GUARDIAN
2. PULSE
3. TXT
4. BARANG
5. TILL I MET YOU
6. DEAD OR ALIVE

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1. THE DEPARTED
2. TILL I MET YOU
3. TXT
4. BARANG

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SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1. TILL I MET YOU
2. TXT
3. THE GUARDIAN
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1. TXT
2. THE GUARDIAN
3. PULSE
4. FLY BOYS
5. BARANG
6. TILL I MET YOU

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1. THE GUARDIAN
2. TXT
3. BARANG
4. TILL I MET YOU

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2. TILL I MET YOU
3. DEAD OR ALIVE
4. BARANG

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1. TXT
2. TILL I MET YOU
3. THE GUARDIAN
4. BARANG

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1. WORLD TRADE CENTER
2. TILL I MET YOU
3. TXT
4. BARANG

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1. THE DEPARTED
2. BARANG
3. TILL I MET YOU
4. TXT

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1. THE DEPARTED
2. WORLD TRADE CENTER
3. THE GUARDIAN
4. STEP UP
5. BARANG
6. TXT
7. TILL I MET YOU
8. THE BREED

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1. DEAD OR ALIVE
2. RESERVED
3. THE BREED
4. TXT
5. THE DEPARTED
6. TILL I MET YOU
7. RESERVED
8. BARANG

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1. SCOOP
2. BARANG
3. TILL I MET YOU
4. TXT
5. JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6. PULSE

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2. TILL I MET YOU
3. BARANG
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1 MY FIRST WEDDING • THX
1:00 3:00 5:00

2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
11:30 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

3 THE GUARDIAN
1:30 4:20 7:10 10.00

4 THE DEPARTED
12:30 3:40 6:50 10.00

5 THE BANQUET
1:50 4:35 7:20 10:00

6 TXT
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

7 TILL I MET YOU
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

8 BARNYARD
1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50

9 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
1:40 3:45 5.50 7:55 10.00

10 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

2 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

3 TXT
12.30 2:50 5:10 7.25 9.50

4 TILL I MET YOU
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50

5 THE GUARDIAN
11.20 2.00 4:40 7:20 10.00

6 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 9:50

7 THE BANQUET
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

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1 BARNYARD
1:00 3:00 5.00 7:00 9:00

2 TILL I MET YOU
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9.00

3 THE BANQUET
12:30 3:20 6:10 9.00

4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00

5 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
11.25 1:50 4:15 6.40 9:05

6 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

7 THE GUARDIAN
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

8 TXT
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

NOVALICHES 935-3231, 935-3229-30

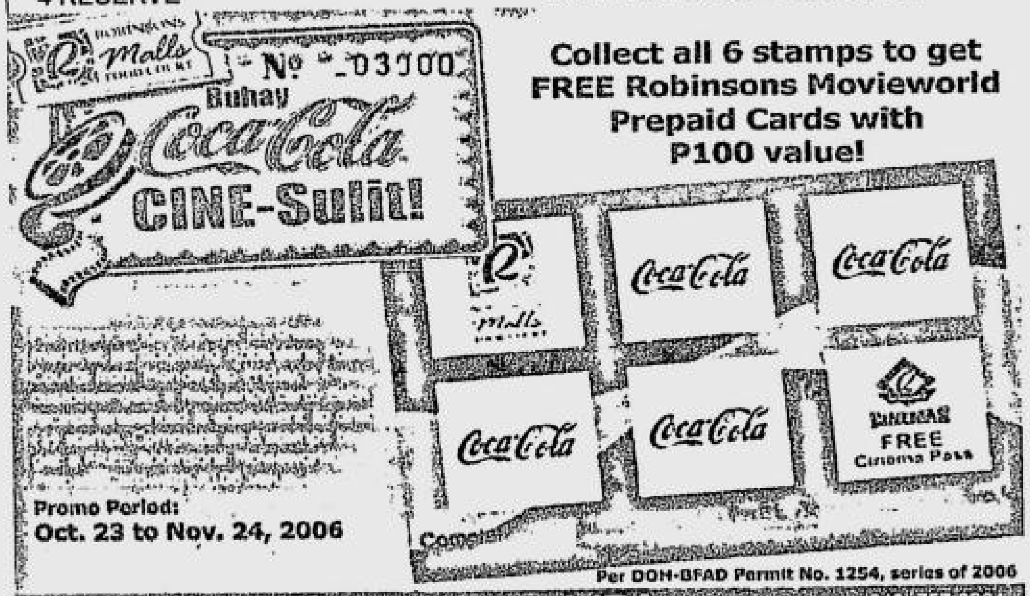
1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TXT
5 THE BANQUET

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 THE BREED
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5379

1 WORLD TRADE CENTER
2 THE BANQUET
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



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3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 TILL I MET YOU

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2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 TXT
4 TILL I MET YOU

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2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 PULSE

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1 THE BANQUET
2 TXT
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 TILL I MET YOU

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2 STEP UP
3 TILL I MET YOU
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Thank you, Binoe

From page D1

Sometimes feelings can touch where words can't reach. It's such a relief that the awkwardness between us is now gone. Thank you Binoe for making me feel that the "you" I got close to during your turbulent election days in Nueva Ecija is still there. Thank you for loving my Mom like your own. I can vouch for how much she loved you like a son.

I know Ma is smiling from up above, seeing that you're back on top again and that you've made a move to rekindle the "family ties" she left us with. I can almost hear her say "Till I Meet You again, Robin." No doubt that even in heaven my Mom remains to be your movie's unofficial PRO and your number one defender.

Rock princesses

BARBIE Almalbis and **Kitchie Nadal** are Bayo's new image models. The clothing line has thought of showing that sweet can also be edgy. It's for free-spirited women with a rugged sense of style.

Barbie and Kitchie don't consider each other rivals. They are excited for the back-to-back concert to be mounted by Bayo in January. While Barbie is happily settled with hubby **Martin Honasan** (they want 12 kids!), Kitchie is giving herself two more years before getting married. But she has no BF now—by choice, not by circumstance.

Kitchie would rather not name her suitors. "*Mahirap na baka mag-*deny *pa sila* (laughs)!" But there's no denying that like their fashion icons **Gwen Stefani** (for Barbie) and **Bjork** (for Kitchie), they can look life right in the eye, knowing that they are dressed for the part.

Red-hot Alfred

IT'S a red-letter day for **Alfred Vargas** as he turns 25. He celebrated his birthday in advance last Friday at Aruba, with lady love **LJ Reyes** hardly leaving his side. She gave him a traveler's guide. They're looking forward to their first trip to Florida with her clan this December. She dreams of going to Paris with him someday.

Huge tarpaulins of Alfred in his Walker briefs were displayed at the venue. I teased LJ: "I'm sure you have all those as wallpaper in your room!" She giggled. "No need. I can have the real thing!"

Alfred kidded his gay guests that his tarpaulins are up for auction. The bewitched gays begged Alfred for one each and he generously gave in. For sure, they're fantasizing about the birthday boy in his birthday suit!

Mags' anniv

JOIN the star-stud-

THANK/ D3

Thank you, Binoe

From page D2

ded party on Oct. 26, 4 p.m. at the SM Mall of Asia Entertainment Center, as Mega Magazines and Publications Inc. welcomes S Magazine, Inside Showbiz Magazine and Celebrity Living Magazine to its prestigious family. It's also S mag's fifth and Inside Showbiz's second anniversary. There will be a fashion show featuring Gener Gozum's holiday collection. The extravaganza will be hosted by **Marvin Agustin, Say Alonzo, Carlos Agassi, Lovi, Cogie Domingo, Ryza Cenon, CJ Muere** and **Jackie Rice**. Big names in the biz are expected to come.

Lovi lovin' it

NEW teen singing sensation Lovi launched her new song "Everything You Wanted" on "S.O.P" It's the third single from her debut CD "The Best of My Heart." She's going on a nationwide mall tour in November. Lovi is equally excited for her role as Crystal (the beautiful daughter) on "Bakekang." For her first scene, TV mom **Sunshine Dizon** was cautious about slapping her but Lovi told her to slap her hard. More pain, more fame?

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

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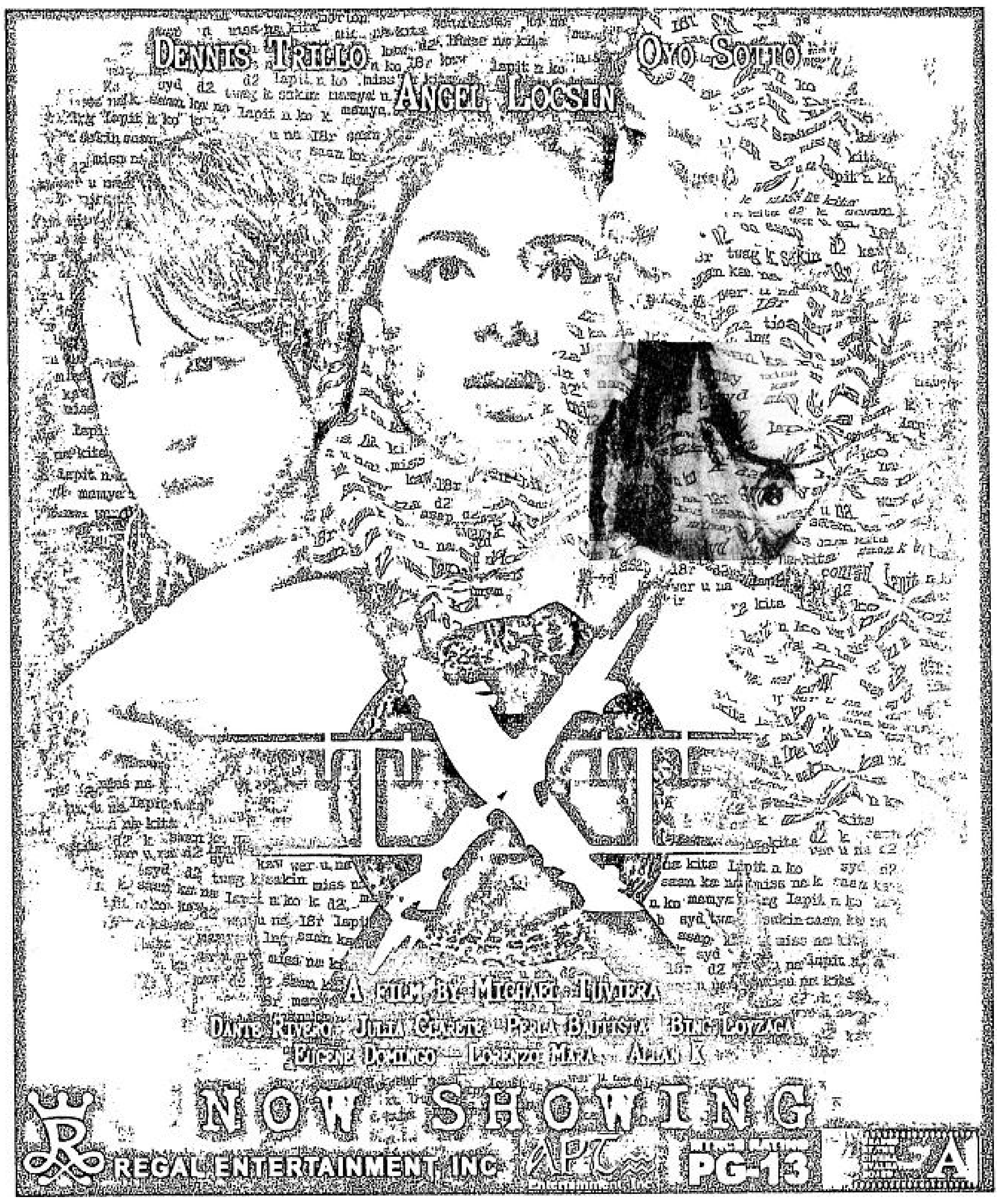
COMING SOON
EATEN ALIVE


DENNIS TRILLO
ANGEL LOCSIN
OYO SOTTO
TXT
A FILM BY MICHAEL TUVIERA
DANTE RIVERO · JULIA CLARETE · PERLA BAUTISTA · BING LOYZAGA
EUGENE DOMINGO · LORENZO MARA · ALLAN K
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PG-13
A

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AT THE CINEMAS

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G1 GLORIETTA 1	THE BANQUET	TXT	WORLD TRADE CENTER	TILL I MET YOU			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	THX CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS	GREEN STREET HOOLIGANS	THE BANQUET	WORLD TRADE CENTER	TIL I MET YOU
GB1 GREENBELT 1	THE BANQUET	WORLD TRADE CENTER					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX THE DEPARTED 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	THX WORLD TRADE CENTER 3:20, 6:00, 8:40, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	THE GUARDIAN 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40 GUARANTEED SEATS	EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX WORLD TRADE CENTER GUARANTEED SEATS	THE GUARDIAN	EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH	THE BANQUET	THE DEPARTED		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	THE GUARDIAN	TILL I MET YOU	FLYBOYS	THE DEPARTED			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	TXT	WORLD TRADE CENTER	THE BANQUET	TIL I MET YOU	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION		

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Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272, from 10am to 9pm
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Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

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Woodridge's United Nation Celebration October 25, 2006	Laguna Expo October 22 to 28, 2006

GREENBELT — Lounge Nights at Greenbelt 2
October 25, 2006

Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents Walt Disney's ALADDIN Jr.
at REP's Globe Theater - October 9 to 29, 2006

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AT 15, SHE BECAME A BRIDE
AT 19, SHE BECAME QUEEN
BY 20, SHE WAS... A LEGEND
KIRSTEN DUNST
MARIE ANTOINETTE
Written & Directed by
Oscar®-winner SOFIA COPPOLA
Know her... Love her... Hate her
coming soon only at
AYALA MALLS CINEMAS
MTRCB RATING: RESTRICTED 13
Ayala Malls CINEMAS
COLUMBIA PICTURES
glorietta
GREENBELT

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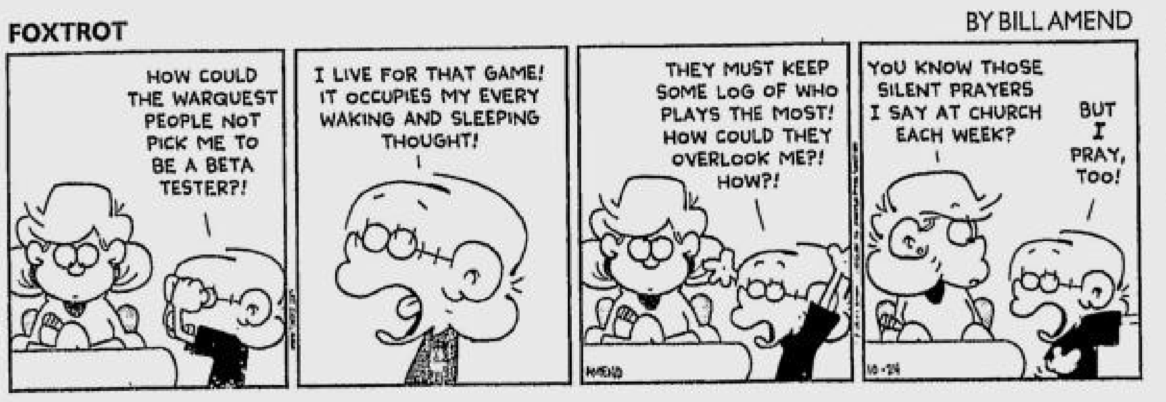
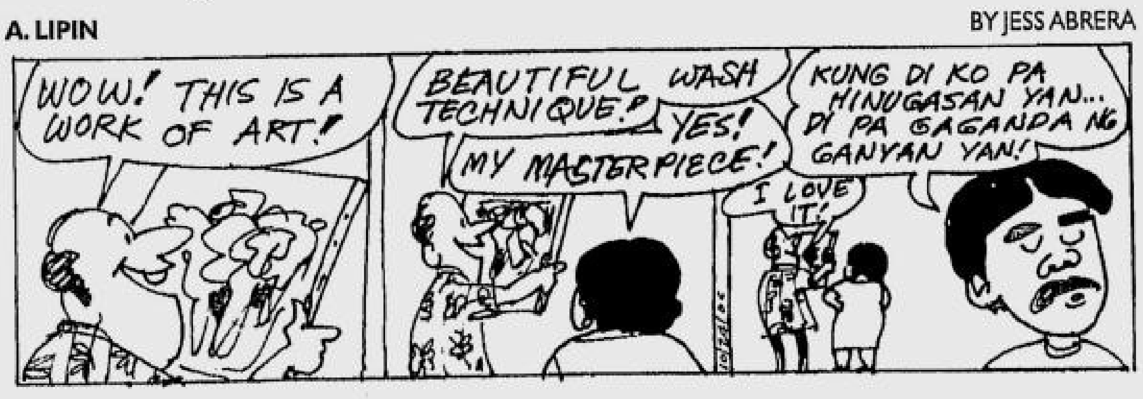
Halloween Treats
at Glorietta on
October 31, 2006
Visit participating stores and the
Concierge to get your treats
Ayala Malls
glorietta

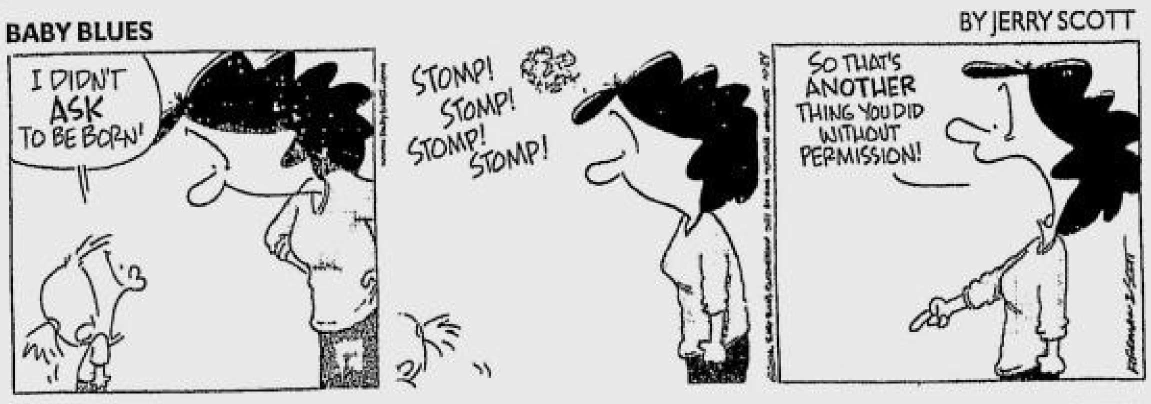
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


HOW COULD THE WARQUEST PEOPLE NOT PICK ME TO BE A BETA TESTER?!
I LIVE FOR THAT GAME! IT OCCUPIES MY EVERY WAKING AND SLEEPING THOUGHT!
THEY MUST KEEP SOME LOG OF WHO PLAYS THE MOST! HOW COULD THEY OVERLOOK ME?! HOW?!
YOU KNOW THOSE SILENT PRAYERS I SAY AT CHURCH EACH WEEK?
BUT I PRAY, TOO!
AMEND
10-24

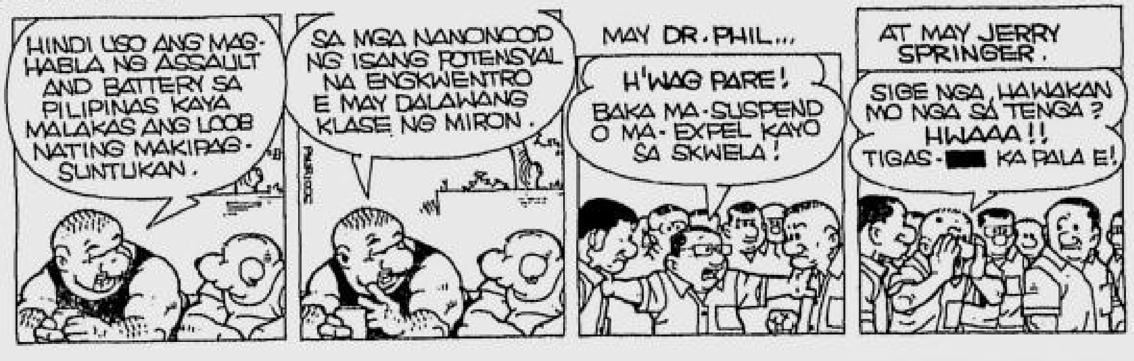
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


WOW! THIS IS A WORK OF ART!
BEAUTIFUL WASH TECHNIQUE!
YES! MY MASTERPIECE!
I LOVE IT!
KUNG DI KO PA HINUGASAN YAN... DI PA GAGANDA NG GANYAN YAN!

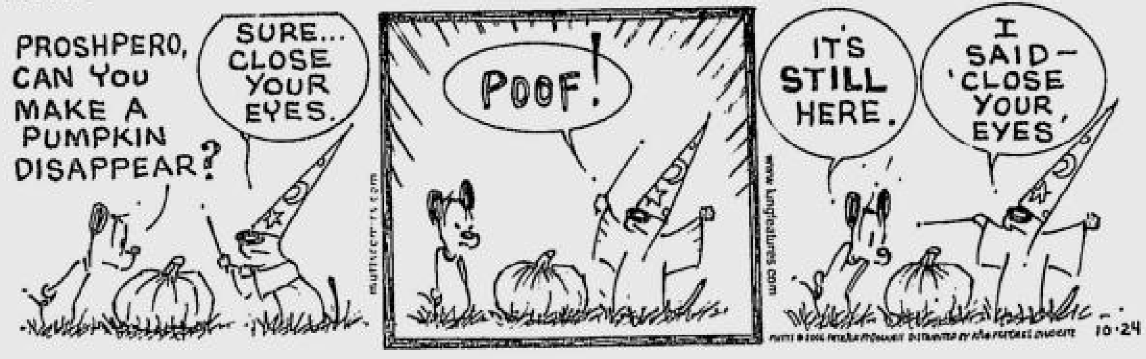
BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


I DIDN'T ASK TO BE BORN!
STOMP! STOMP! STOMP! STOMP!
SO THAT'S ANOTHER THING YOU DID WITHOUT PERMISSION!

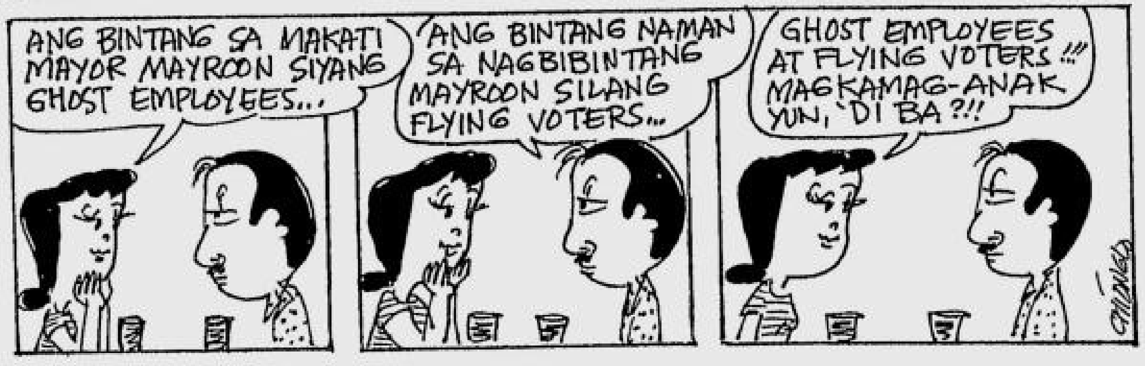
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI USO ANG MAG-HABLA NG ASSAULT AND BATTERY SA PILIPINAS KAYA MALAKAS ANG LOOB NATING MAKIPAG-SUNTUKAN.
SA MGA NANONOOD NG ISANG POTENSYAL NA ENGKWENTRO E MAY DALAWANG KLASE NG MIRON.
MAY DR. PHIL...
H'WAG PARE! BAKA MA-SUSPEND O MA-EXPEL KAYO SA SKWELA!
AT MAY JERRY SPRINGER.
SIGE NGA, HAWAKAN MO NGA SA TENGA? HWAAA!! TIGAS-[redacted] KA PALA E!

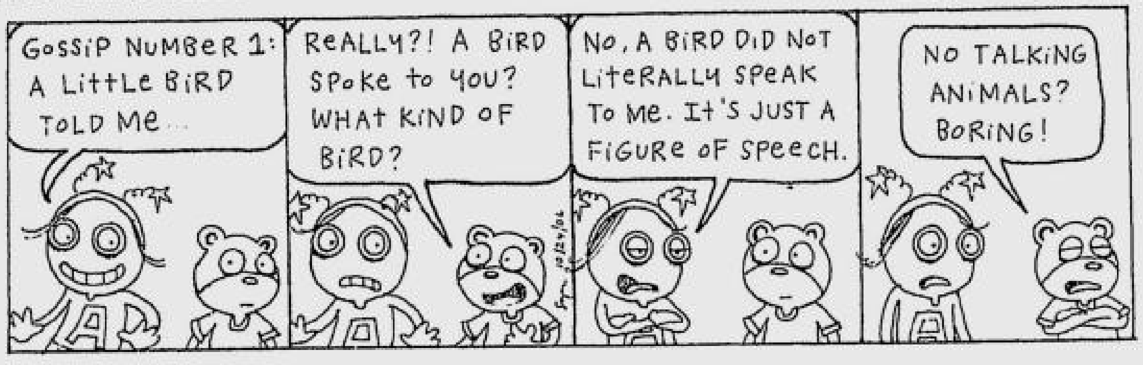
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


PROSHPERO, CAN YOU MAKE A PUMPKIN DISAPPEAR?
SURE... CLOSE YOUR EYES.
POOF!
IT'S STILL HERE.
I SAID— 'CLOSE YOUR EYES'
www.kingfeatures.com
10·24

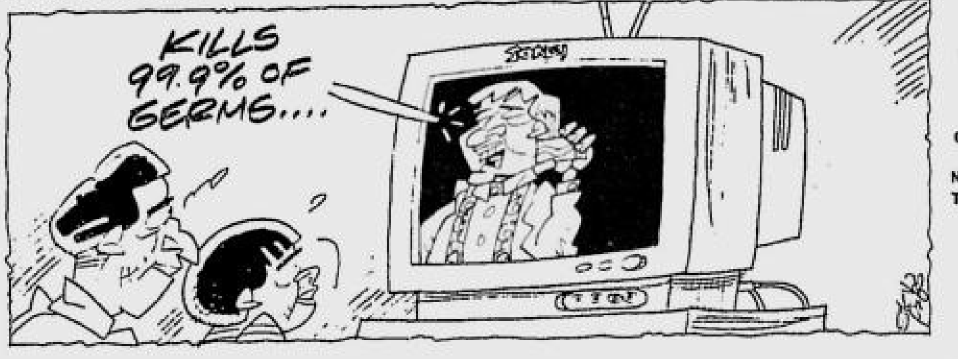
LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG BINTANG SA MAKATI MAYOR MAYROON SIYANG GHOST EMPLOYEES...
ANG BINTANG NAMAN SA NAGBIBINTANG MAYROON SILANG FLYING VOTERS...
GHOST EMPLOYEES AT FLYING VOTERS!!! MAGKAMAG-ANAK YUN, 'DI BA?!!
CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO

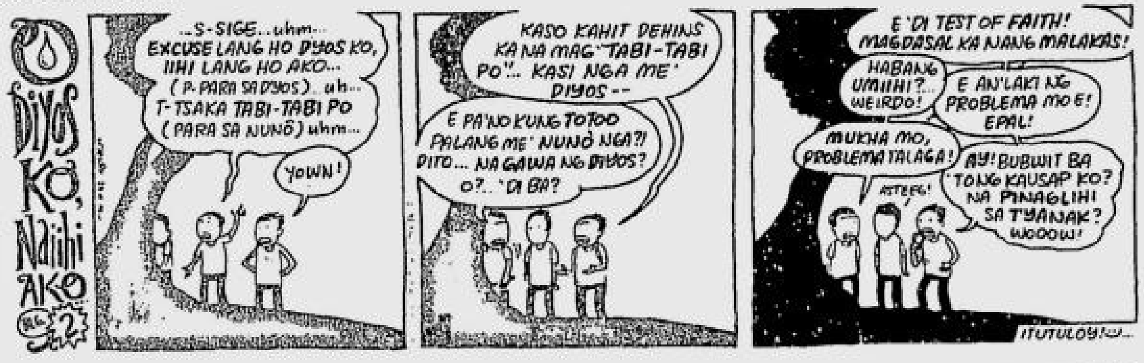

GOSSIP NUMBER 1: A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME...
REALLY?! A BIRD SPOKE TO YOU? WHAT KIND OF BIRD?
NO, A BIRD DID NOT LITERALLY SPEAK TO ME. IT'S JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH.
NO TALKING ANIMALS? BORING!

DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

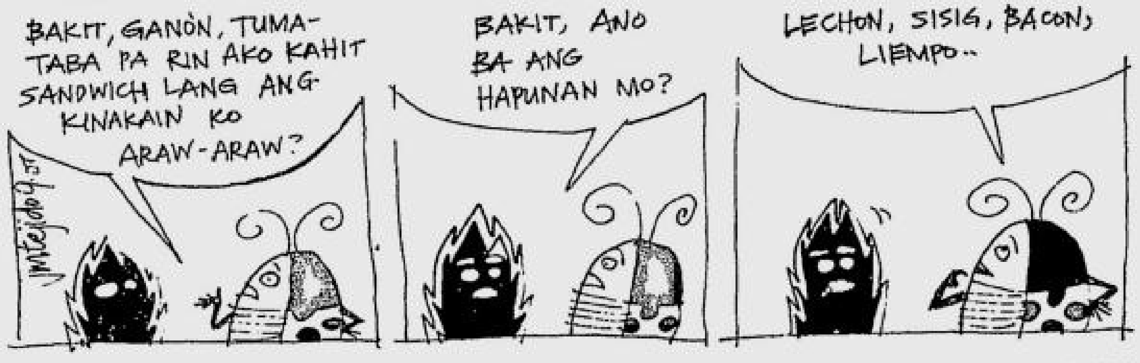

KILLS 99.9% OF GERMS....

NAGING ENDORSER NG SABONG SAFEGARD ANG ISANG CONGRESSMAN. PERO HINDI NAG-APPEAR SA TV SCREEN ANG KONSIYENSYA NYA DAHIL WALA NAMAN SYA NITO

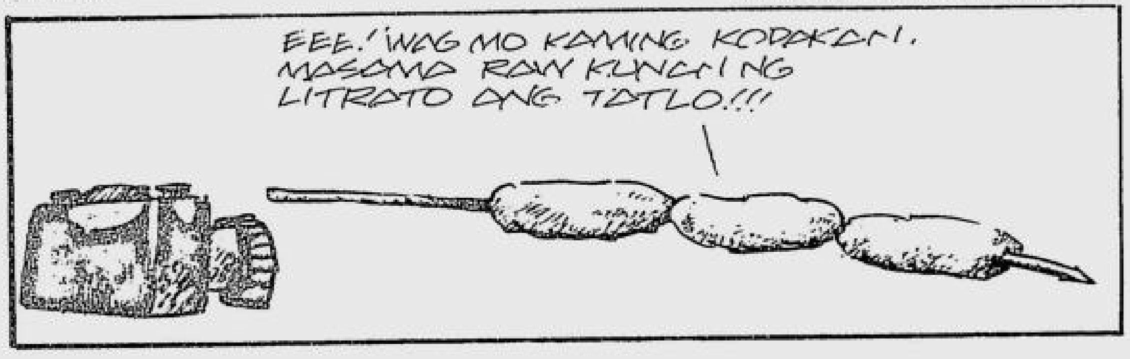
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


DIYOS KO, NAIIHI AKO
...S-SIGE...uhm... EXCUSE LANG HO DYOS KO, IIHI LANG HO AKO... (P-PARA SA DYOS)... uh... T-TSAKA TABI-TABI PO (PARA SA NUNÒ) uhm...
YOWN!
KASO KAHIT DEHINS KA NA MAG "TABI-TABI PO"... KASI NGA ME' DIYOS--
E PA'NO KUNG TOTOO PALANG ME' NUNÒ NGA?! DITO... NA GAWA NG DIYOS? O?.. 'DI BA?
E 'DI TEST OF FAITH! MAGDASAL KA NANG MALAKAS!
HABANG UMIIHI?... WEIRDO!
E AN'LAKI NG PROBLEMA MO E! EPAL!
MUKHA MO, PROBLEMA TALAGA!
ASTEG!
AY! BUBWIT BA 'TONG KAUSAP KO? NA PINAGLIHI SA TYANAK? WOOOW!
ITUTULOY!

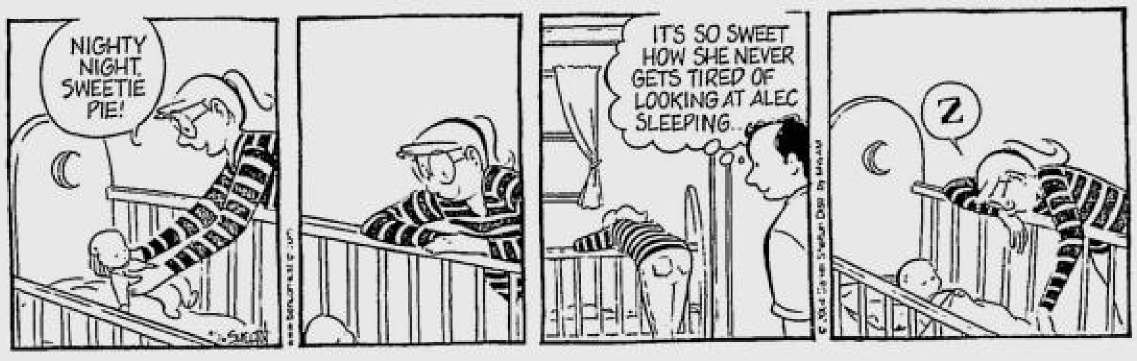
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BAKIT, GANÒN, TUMA-TABA PA RIN AKO KAHIT SANDWICH LANG ANG KINAKAIN KO ARAW-ARAW?
BAKIT, ANO BA ANG HAPUNAN MO?
LECHON, SISIG, BACON, LIEMPO..

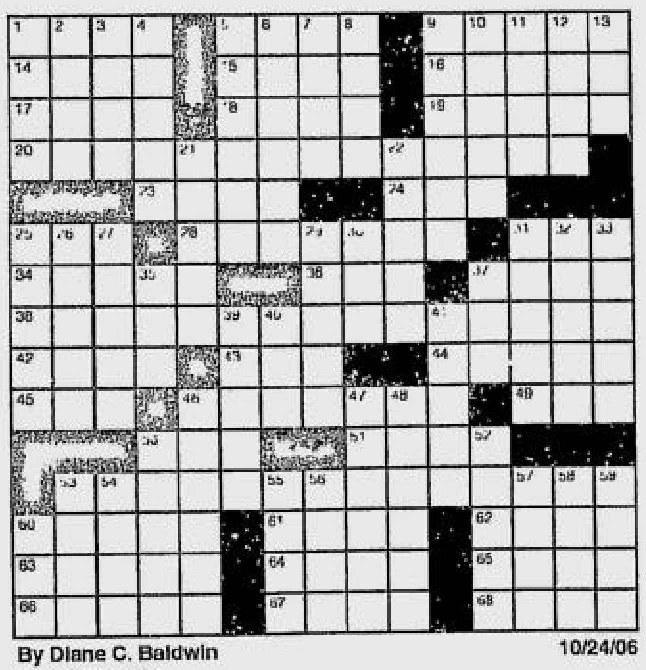
TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


EEE! 'WAG MO KAMING KODAKAN! MASAMA RAW KUNG [illegible] NG LITRATO ANG TATLO!!!

BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


NIGHTY NIGHT, SWEETIE PIE!
IT'S SO SWEET HOW SHE NEVER GETS TIRED OF LOOKING AT ALEC SLEEPING...
Z

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

10/24/06

ACROSS
1 Shows curiosity
5 Secular
9 Calligraphy line
14 Declaim loudly
15 Computer's fix-it button
16 Sidestep
17 Musical group
18 Thorn site
19 Egg carton quantity
20 Take it slow
23 Father of France
24 PAT value
25 Wildebeest
28 Harbingers
31 Kettle and Barker
34 Cruise ship
36 __ Dawn Chong
37 Nebraska neighbor
38 In automatic mode
42 Tolerate
43 Six-shooter
44 Honshu city
45 6th sense
46 Mrs. Roosevelt
49 Spearheaded
50 To's partner
51 Leaf-cutters, e.g.
53 Go nowhere fast
60 Put on
61 Heavenly bear
62 Mob scene
63 Expletives
64 Romanov ruler
65 Encourage
66 Quarterback Favre
67 Framing upright
68 Persian comment

DOWN
1 B.A. word
2 Agra attire
3 Work with needles
4 Condescend
5 British sheen
6 Stamen feature
7 __ fixe (obsession)
8 Barbershop item
9 Family cars
10 Conjure up
11 Bring down the house
12 __ of March
13 Marshland
21 Indian statesman
22 Broncobuster's milieu
25 Boston daily
26 Baseball groups
27 Flip a lid off
29 Scene of action
30 Varnish resin
31 Fable's lesson
32 Finished napping
33 Dish with dressing
35 Miss the mark
37 __ now or never!
39 Arctic shelter
40 Take to court
41 Sea east of Great Britain
46 Writer Hemingway
47 Caribbean destination
48 Ahead
50 Hostile engagement
52 Blood component
53 Headliner
54 __ de foie gras
55 Darn!
56 Once, once
57 Shamrock land
58 Company emblem
59 Brood
60 Blubber

Monday's Puzzle Solved

R	A	J	A	S	■	A	M	A	H	■	P	E	E	L
A	M	A	N	A	■	L	E	I	A	■	R	E	D	O
B	A	N	D	Y	W	O	R	D	S	■	E	R	G	O
I	T	E	■	S	I	N	E	■	A	J	F	O	Y	T
D	I	S	O	W	N	S	■	A	S	E	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	S	H	O	O	T	T	H	E	B	U	L	L
I	D	A	H	O	■	■	H	O	O	P	■	P	I	E
M	A	T	A	■	A	D	O	P	T	■	B	O	N	N
A	D	O	■	P	I	E	R	■	■	B	O	N	E	S
C	O	M	P	A	R	E	N	O	T	E	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	U	L	D	■	B	E	A	N	B	A	G
B	R	I	L	L	O	■	L	I	A	R	■	O	L	E
E	A	R	L	■	C	H	E	W	T	H	E	F	A	T
A	C	M	E	■	K	A	V	A	■	U	N	F	I	T
M	E	A	T	■	S	H	I	N	■	G	O	O	N	Y

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10/24/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are a stylish perfectionist. You always do your homework ahead of time; no detail is too small for you. You like to share your discoveries about the world and yourself with anyone who is interested. (It's your dramatic enthusiasm for life.) You're definitely assertive. The year ahead is wonderfully social, and it promotes friendships and romance!

Birthdate of: F. Murray Abraham, actor; Kevin Kline, actor; Bill Wyman, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You can expect to feel increasingly intense about practically everything in the next few weeks. Suddenly, everything matters. You see events in black and white. You might have to deal with inheritance matters, errands and shared property.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): It's unusual, but right now five planets oppose your sign. This totally focuses your attention on partnerships and close friendships. (You have no choice!)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're a dynamo of energy in the next few weeks. Primarily, it's because you have a strong motivation to get better organized. You might as well act while you have this urge!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Everything having to do with romance, love affairs, playful activities, the entertainment world and working with children will be your major focus in the month ahead. It's time to have fun!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Home, family and real estate matters are on the menu for the next six weeks. Family discussions are significant. Entertain at home when you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): The daily tempo of your days is accelerating! Short trips, errands, increased time with siblings and relatives, plus reading and writing keep you hopping for the next month.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're unusually focused on money and possessions right now. You have moneymaking ideas, but you're also running around spending it!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): It's quite unusual to have five planets in your sign. This empowers you enormously in all your dealings with others. (Nobody else has a chance.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's important to bide your time right now. Stay in the background. Work in the wings. Try to get extra rest and relaxation for the next six weeks.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): The next six weeks are an extremely popular time for you. Accept all invitations. Join classes, groups or clubs. Enjoy the company of friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): With five planets now at high noon in your chart, people definitely notice you! (This acts like a spotlight on you.) The month ahead is an excellent time to talk to bosses, VIPs and parents.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Publishing opportunities or chances to travel or pursue further education can come your way in the next month. Be ready for unexpected adventure! Try to do something different from your usual routine.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

9	2	5	6					1
	3						9	8
				4	2			5
		8						3
		6				1		
1						6		
2			7	3				
7	6						3	
5					8	7	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★

10/24

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

7	1	9	2	3	4	8	5	6
8	4	2	5	9	6	3	1	7
3	6	5	7	8	1	4	9	2
4	3	8	1	7	2	5	6	9
2	9	6	3	5	8	7	4	1
1	5	7	6	4	9	2	3	8
6	7	1	4	2	3	9	8	5
9	2	4	8	6	5	1	7	3
5	8	3	9	1	7	6	2	4

Difficulty Level ★

‘Ilusyon’ woos Korean audiences

From page D6

competed in the film fest, were screened on Oct. 15.

“We brought collateral, like the omnibus video made by Roadrunner, brochures and film folders to give out in the film market,” Dayrit said in a text message sent before leaving for Pusan.

The Asian Market held from Oct. 15 to 18 hosted special events and panels including “Star Summit Asia,” a summit of Asia’s leading talents and talent agencies, according to www.asianfilmmarket.org.

Meanwhile, the 10th Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival in the Czech Republic is naming its 2006 Best International Documentary Film Award after its one-man jury, Filipino indie filmmaker Khavn de la Cruz.

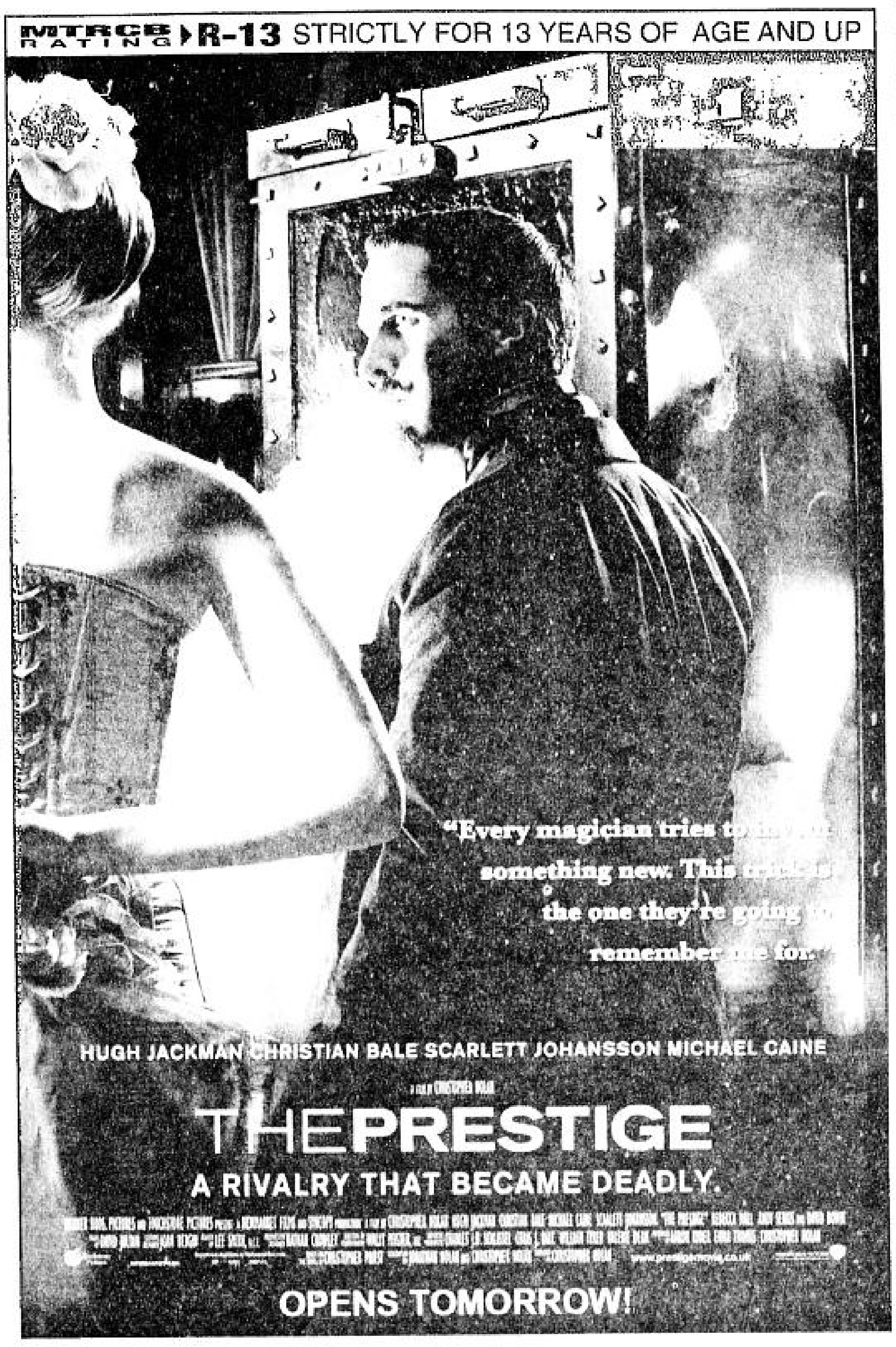
The “Khavn de la Cruz Award” will be chosen from 18 films in the competitive section called “Opus Bonum.”

The section will feature works by Chantal Ackerman (Belgium), Amos Gitai (Israel), and other auteurs from Hungary, UK, Japan, Germany, India, Sweden, Portugal, Denmark, France, USA, Taiwan, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Jihlava film fest will be held from Oct. 24 to 29 and will do a retrospective of De la Cruz’s works under the section titled, “Translucent Beings.” It is the seventh time an international film fest has focused on De la Cruz’s works.

“Translucent Beings” will present the world premiere of Khavn’s “Kamias: Alaala ng Paglimot (Memory of Forgetting),” and screenings of “Bahag Kings” and four of his short films: “Can&Slippers,” “Our Daily Bread,” “Rugby Boyz” and “John Cage.”

MTRCB RATING G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
FROM THE CO-WRITER OF MONSTERS ... E CO-DIRECTOR OF THE LION KING
OPEN SEASON
OPENS TOMORROW
"ALSO IN IMAX 3D!"
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES


MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
"Every magician tries to ... something new. This trick is the one they're going to remember me for."
HUGH JACKMAN CHRISTIAN BALE SCARLETT JOHANSSON MICHAEL CAINE
THE PRESTIGE
A RIVALRY THAT BECAME DEADLY.
OPENS TOMORROW!

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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
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CINEMA 1 THE GUARDIAN 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 PG13
CINEMA 2 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:35 PG13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 WORLD TRADE CENTER 1:15, 4:05, 6:55, 9:45 PG-13
CINEMA 4 THE BANQUET 11:50, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35 PG-13
CINEMA 5 WORLD TRADE CENTER 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20 PG-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
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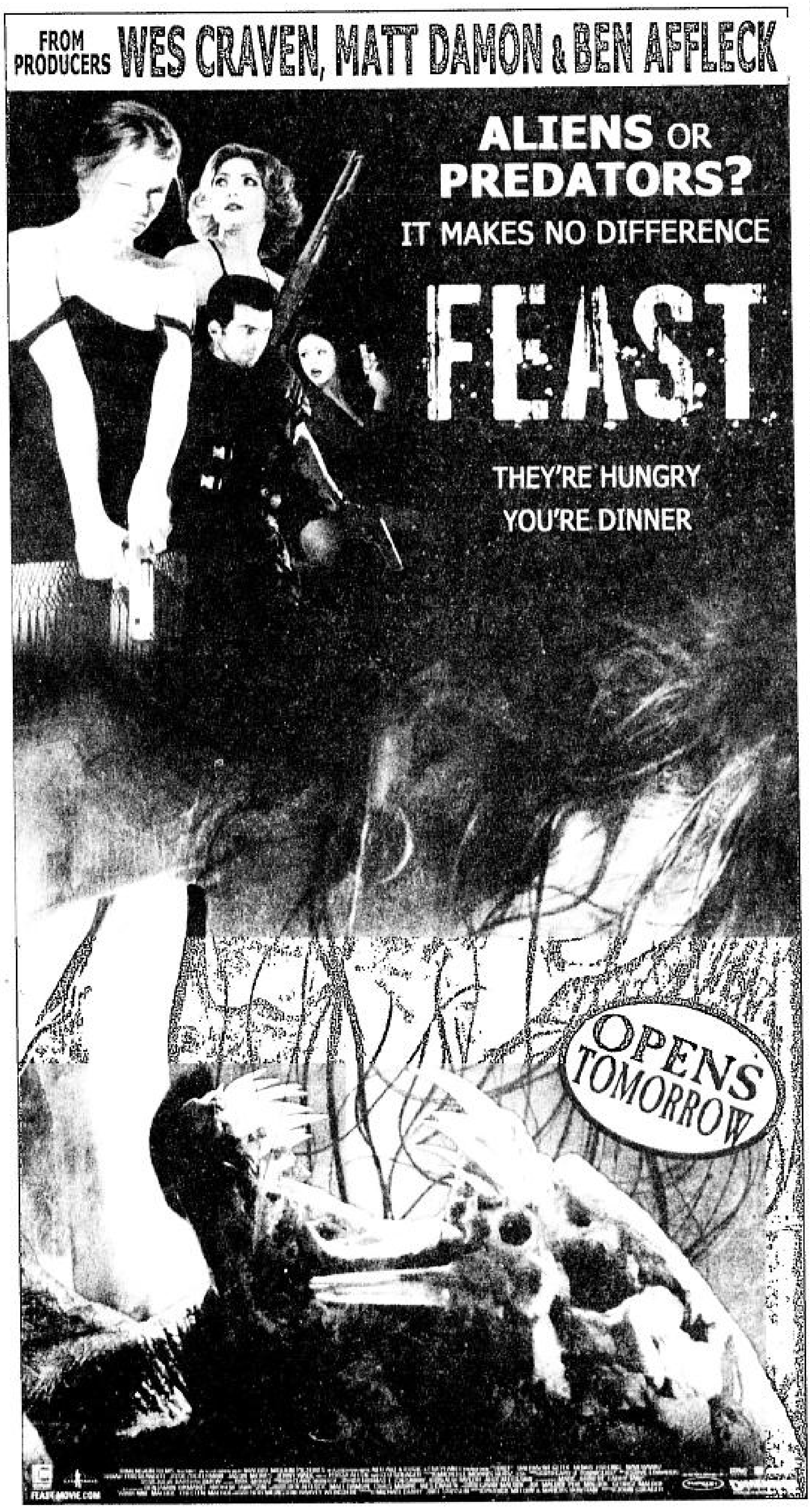
OCT. 26, 2006 BOBBY SOUL 8:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS
EVERY MONDAY DANCE NIGHT 7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY CERRUDO CLASSICO 8:00PM
OCT. 19, 26, 2006 ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA 8:30 PM
OCT. 21, 2006 AYEN LAUREL & RAYMUND LAUCHENGCO 8:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC. 116
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
THE FUNNIEST, WACKIEST, AND NAUGHTIEST EMPLOYEES YOU'LL EVER MEET IN YOUR LIFE
WIN THE CONTEST
WIN THE GIRL
NOW SHOWING
From the producers of "WEDDING CRASHERS"
Jessica Simpson
Dane Cook Dax Shepard
Employee of the Month


FROM PRODUCERS WES CRAVEN, MATT DAMON & BEN AFFLECK
ALIENS OR PREDATORS?
IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE
FEAST
THEY'RE HUNGRY
YOU'RE DINNER
OPENS TOMORROW
FEASTMOVIE.COM

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2 THE BANQUET
3 BARNYARD / THE DEPARTED
4 THE GUARDIAN
PREMIERE
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Maragana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 BARANG

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449349)
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 TILL I MET YOU

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT
4 BARANG

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4234 / 816.4236
1 THE GUARDIAN / BANYARD
2 TXT
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 TXT
2 FLY BOYS

starmall
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7258160
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 WORLD TRADE CENTER
5 TXT

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.4563 or 72
1 THE BANQUET
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 BANYARD / THE GUARDIAN
4 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

metropolis star cinema
www.cspcitiesity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8604285, 8433094
1 BARANG
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE BANQUET
4 TXT

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE DEPARTED
4 RESERVED

THEATRES
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE BREED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 THE DEPARTED
3 THE BREED
4 TXT

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771
1 TXT
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 THE BREED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMAS
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 THE GUARDIAN
5 THE BANQUET
6 WORLD TRADE CENTER
7 THE DEPARTED
8 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
9 BARANG
10 TXT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 THE DEPARTED
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 TXT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4887736
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 POSSESSED BY EVIL
2 THE DEPARTED

Blue Wave MARILAO
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 TXT
2 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
3 WORLD TRADE CENTER
4 TILL I MET YOU

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 BARANG
2 BABASAGING KRISTAL
3 MAPAG BIGAY
4 THE DEPARTED

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 PERLAS
3 THE DEPARTED
4 POSSESSED BY EVIL
5 TXT

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 BANQUET
2 WORLD TRADE CENTER
3 TILL I MET YOU
4 TXT
5 BARANG

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
2 TILL I MET YOU
3 THE GUARDIAN
4 TXT

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 TILL I MET YOU
2 TXT
3 THE DEPARTED
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 BARANG
2 DEAD OR ALIVE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

'Ilusyon' woos Korean audiences

Viva's romantic drama to be screened in 30 theaters

By Marinel R. Cruz

FILMMAKER Jeffrey Jeturian (left) and actress Gina Pareño (extreme right) with Korean fans

Viva Entertainment has inked a distribution deal with Korean-based CJ Entertainment for its romantic drama "Ilusyon" in the three-day 1st Asian Film Market of the 2006 Pusan International Film Festival Market in Korea.

In the Oct. 17 issue of Korea's Variety magazine, Viva executive vice president Vincent del Rosario was quoted as saying that "Ilusyon" will be screened in 30 theaters all over Korea—the first-ever rights deal for a Filipino film in that country.

Set in 1958, "Ilusyon" tells the story of Miguel (Yul Servo), who visits his father Pablo, a modernist painter in Manila. When he meets nude model Stella (Jaycee Parker), he gets mesmerized by her beauty and pretends he is Pablo.

The digital film is a collaboration of directors Paolo Villaluna and Ellen Ramos. It is the second offering of Digital Viva, the first being John Red's "Boso."

"Ilusyon" debuted and competed in last year's Digital Lokal Competition of the Cinemanila International Film Festival.

Crowd favorites

Considered crowd favorites among the Filipino films in the film market were Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador," Adolf Alix's "Donsol," Mike Sandejas' "Tulad ng Dati," Robert Quebral's "Coed Scandal" and Joyce Bernal's "Agent X44," said Film Development Council (FDCP) vice chair Christine Dayrit.

"Many inquiries for distribution of our films will surely translate into millions in sales," Dayrit told INQUIRER Entertainment on Wednesday. "The Philippine Consulate in Korea headed by Ambassador Susan Castrence hosted a Philippine Film Market that was also well-received."

The Philippine delegation, which left for Pusan on Oct. 14, arrived in Manila on Oct. 18. "Kubrador" and "Tulad ng Dati," which

'ILUSYON'/D5

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THE BANQUET PG13 12:00,2:35,5:10,7:45,10:20	EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH PG13 1:00,3:15,5:30,7:45	WORLD TRADE CENTER PG13 2:20,4:55,7:30,10:05

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WORLD TRADE CENTER 1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 1:40 / 3:40 / 5:40 / 7:40 / 9:40
TILL I MET YOU 12:40 / 2:55 / 5:10 / 7:25 / 9:40
MY FIRST WEDDING 12:20 / 4:40 9:30
THE DEPARTED 12:10 / 3:20 / 6:30 / 9:40
BARNYARD 2:30 / 6:50
THE GUARDIAN 1:20 / 4:10 / 7:00 9:50
WORLD TRADE CENTER 1:10 / 3:50 / 6:30 / 9:10

AliMALL 5
TXT 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
BARANG 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
TILL I MET YOU 12:10 R3 / 1:45 / 4:00 / 6:15 / 8:30
THE BANQUET 12:35 / 3:00 / 5:35 / 8:10
WORLD TRADE CENTER 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10
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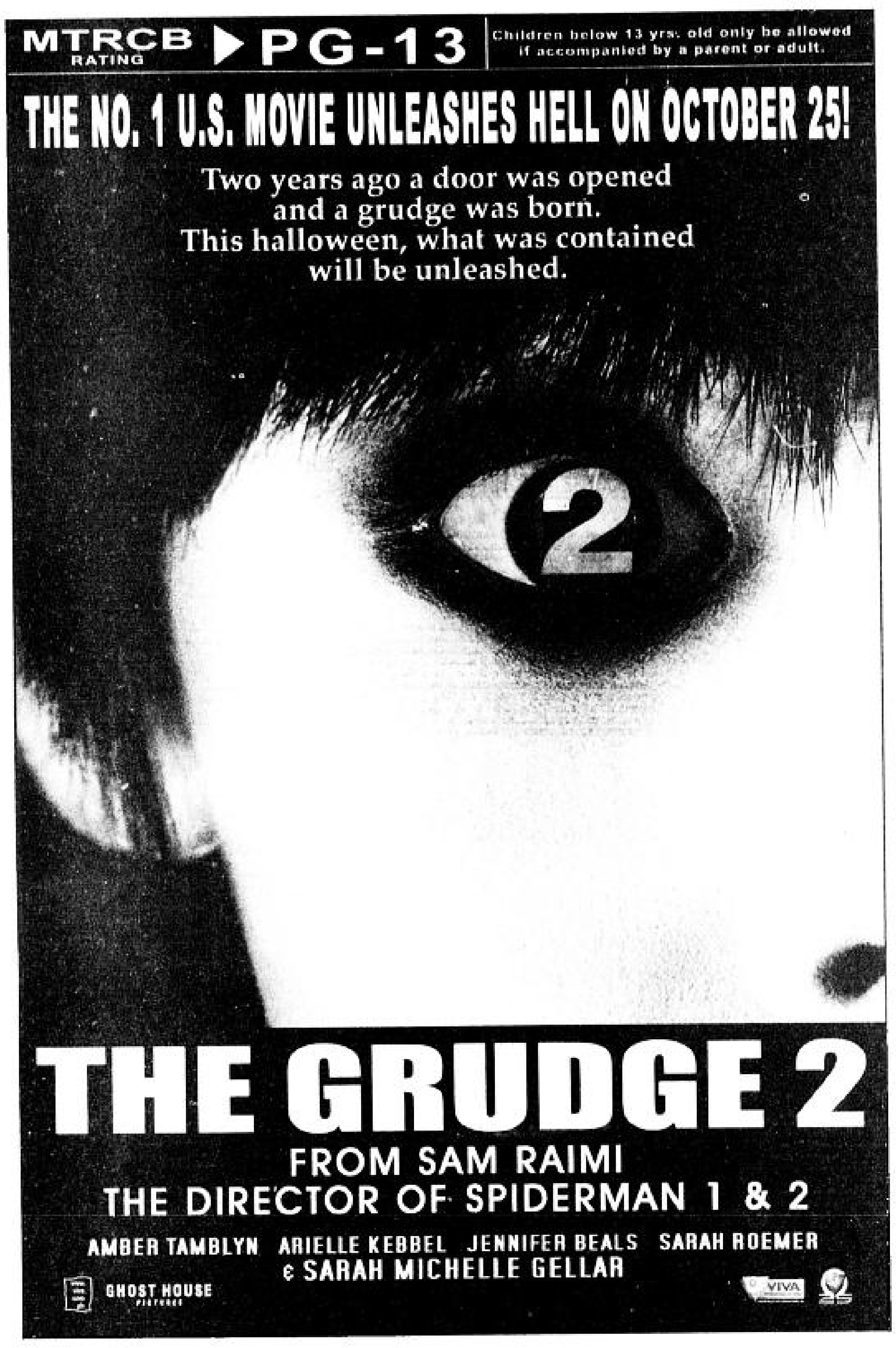

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